



THE HIDDEN TREASURE

WISDOM WINS A WAR

Vol 617





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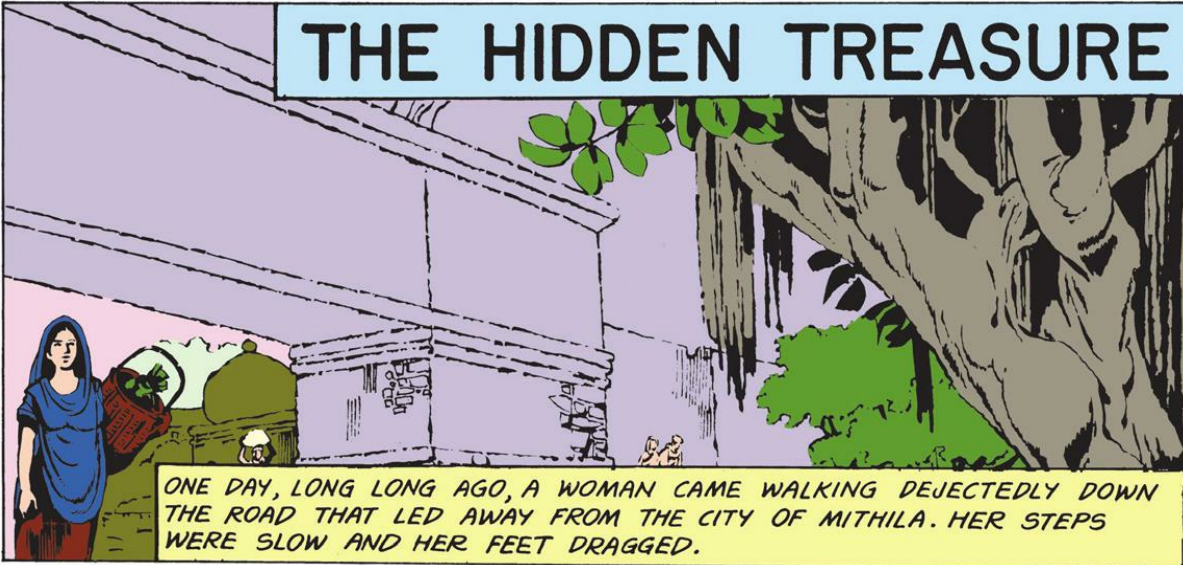
© Amar Chitra Katha Pvt Ltd, 1982, Reprinted October 2016,
ISBN 978-81-8482-166-6

Published by Amar Chitra Katha Pvt. Ltd., 201 & 202, Sumer Plaza,
2nd Floor, Marol Maroshi Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai- 400 059. India
Printed at M/s Indigo press (I) Pvt Ltd., Mumbai.

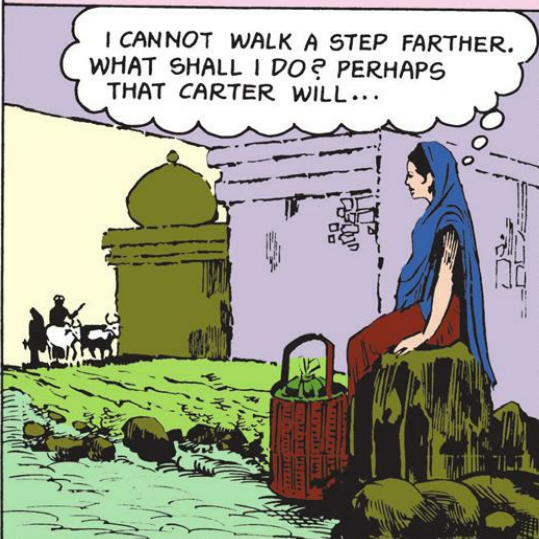
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THE HIDDEN TREASURE

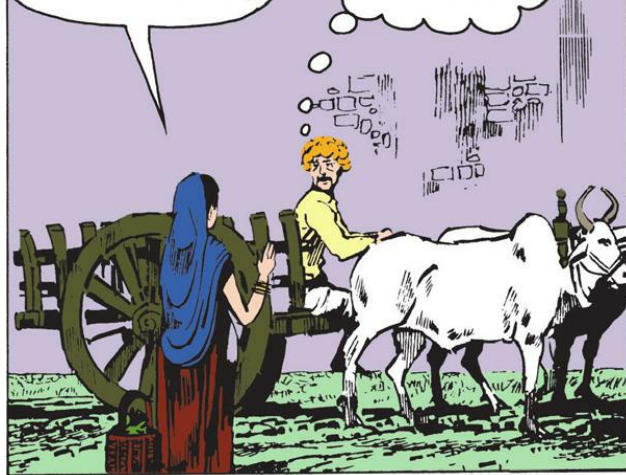


SHE WORE THE GARB OF A MAID BUT SEEMED TO BE OF NOBLE BIRTH.



HOW FAR ARE YOU GOING, SIR? CAN YOU TAKE ME TO KALACHAMPA?

SHE LOOKS TIRED AND MISERABLE, POOR THING.



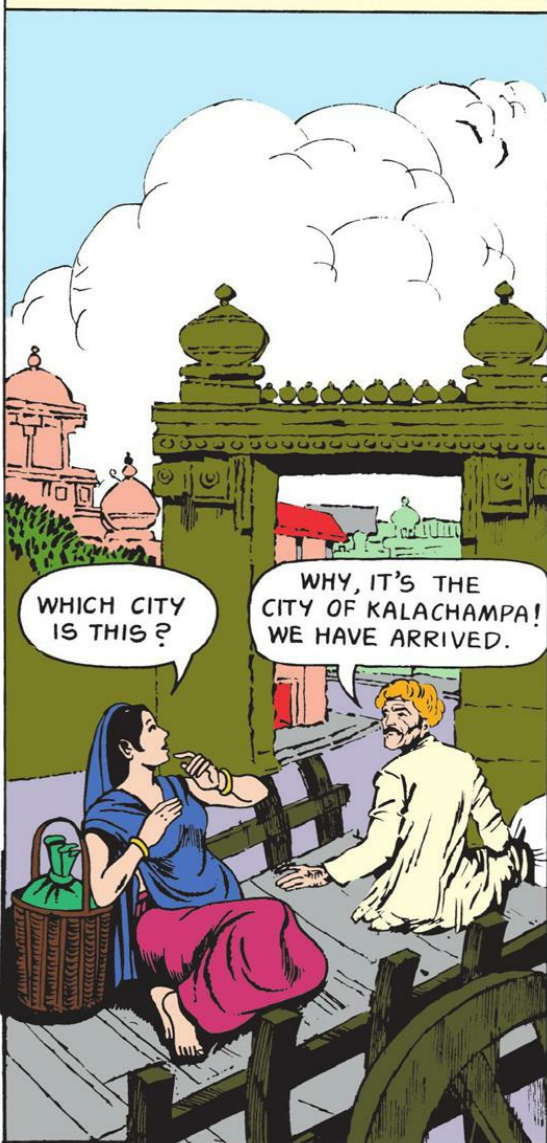
I'LL TAKE YOU THERE. PLEASE GET INTO MY CART.

YOU ARE VERY KIND, SIR! I... I DON'T KNOW HOW TO THANK YOU.

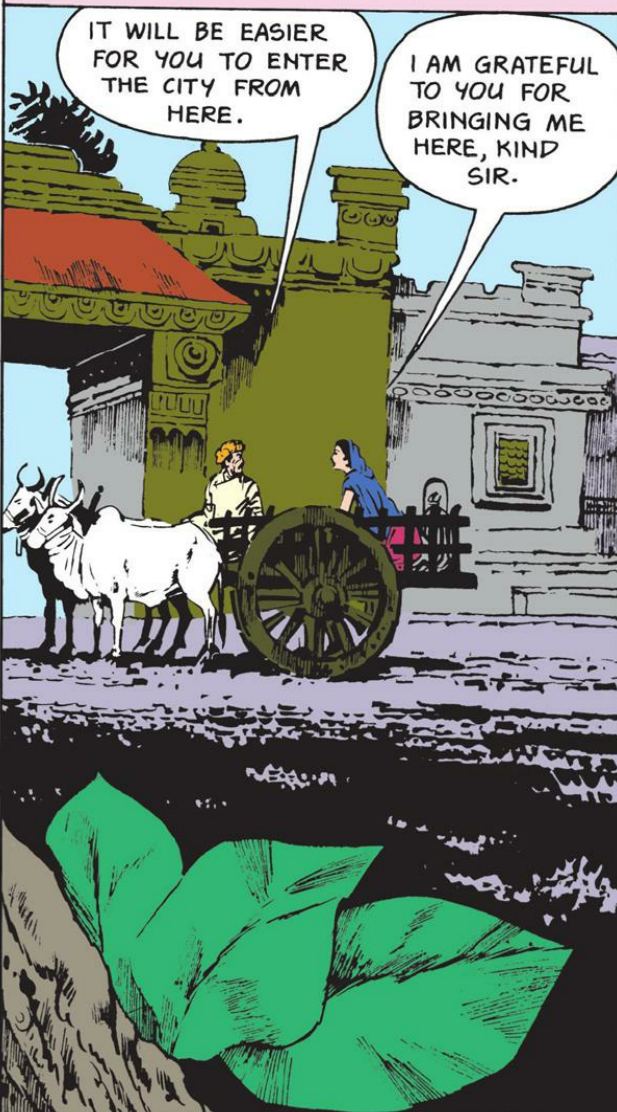


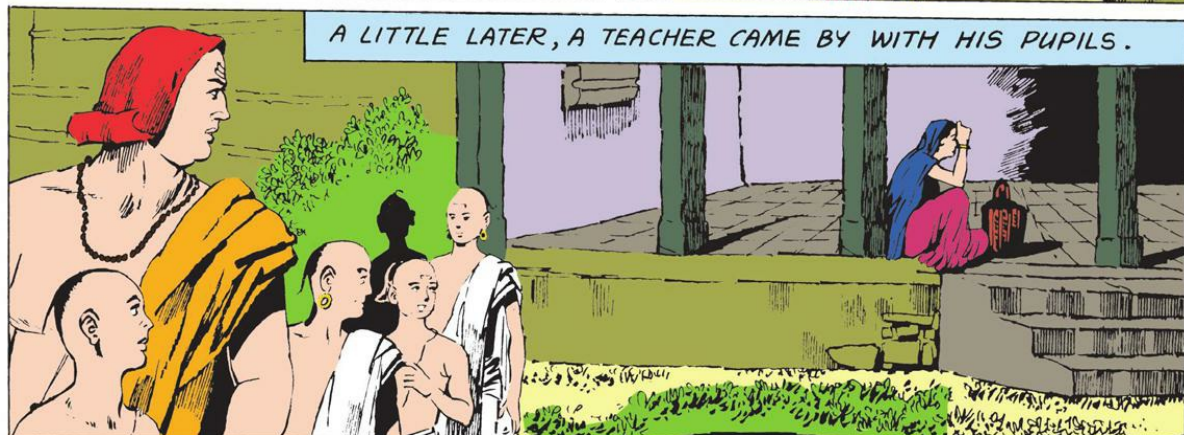
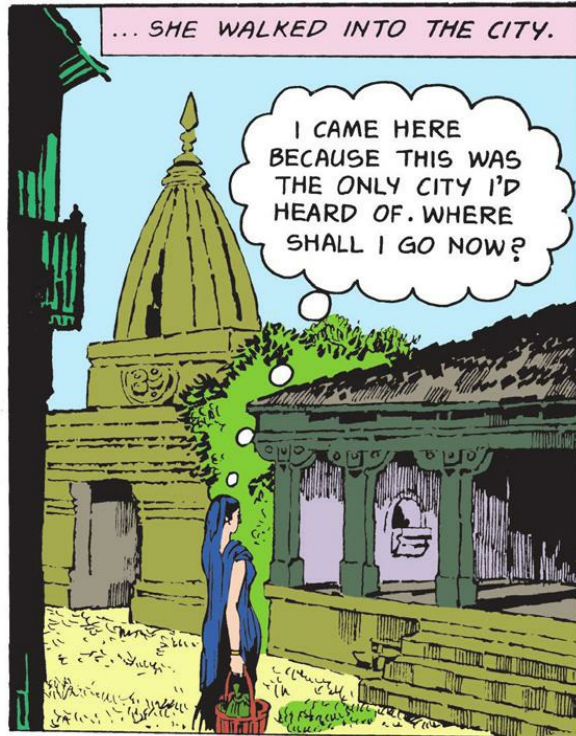


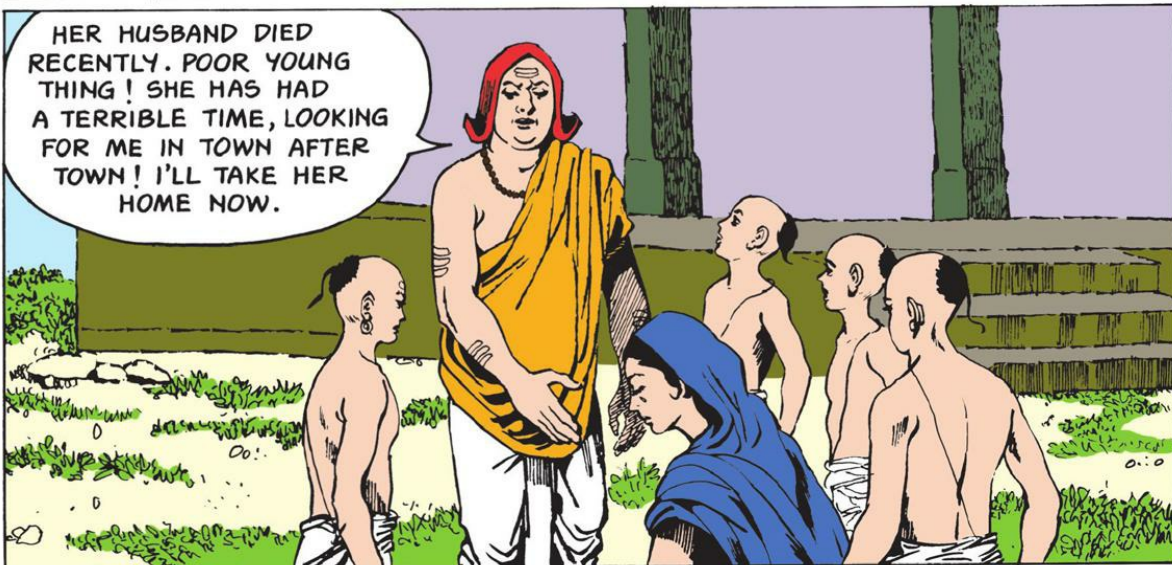
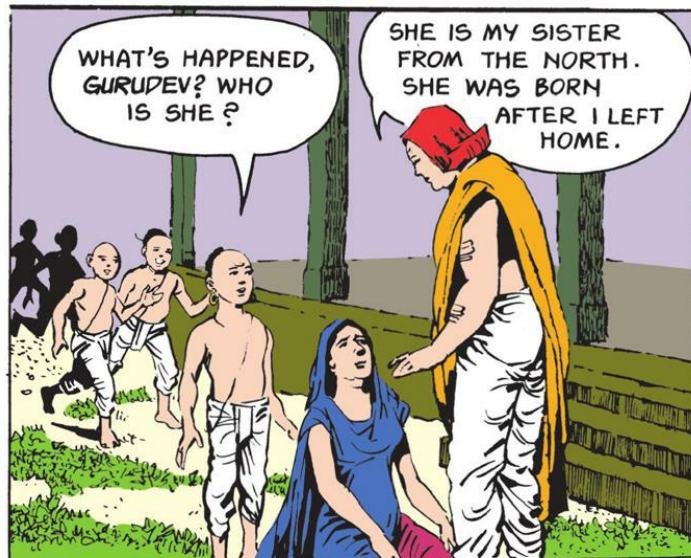
WHEN SHE WOKE UP IT WAS EVENING.

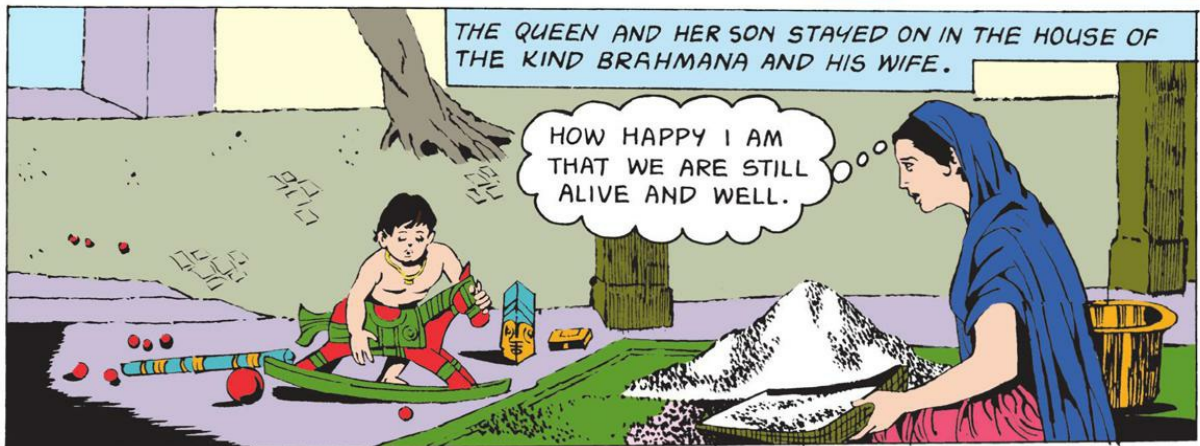
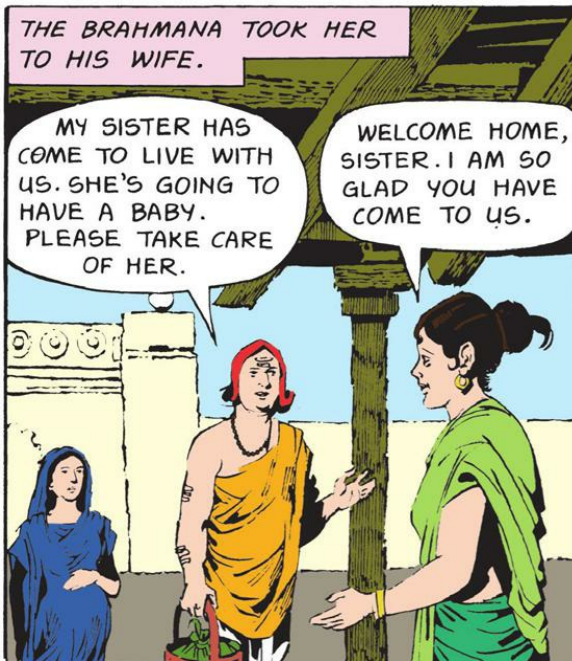


HE BROUGHT HIS CART TO A HALT AT THE SOUTHERN GATE OF THE CITY.

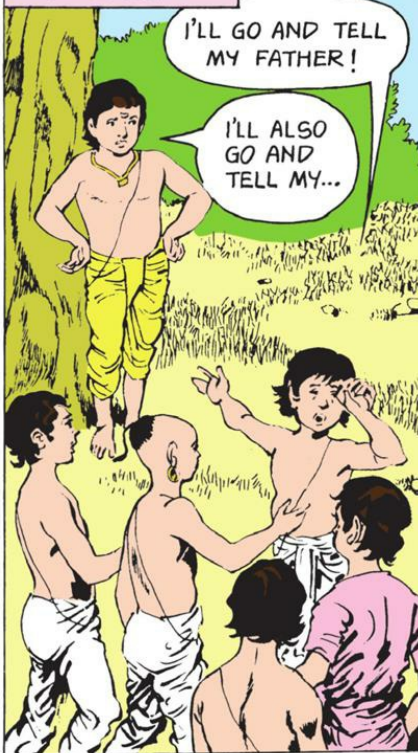








BUT THEY OFTEN QUARRELLED TOO. AND, THEN, MAHAJANAKA WHO WAS THE STRONGEST OF THEM ALL, WOULD BEAT UP THE OTHERS. ONE DAY, AFTER SUCH A QUARREL —



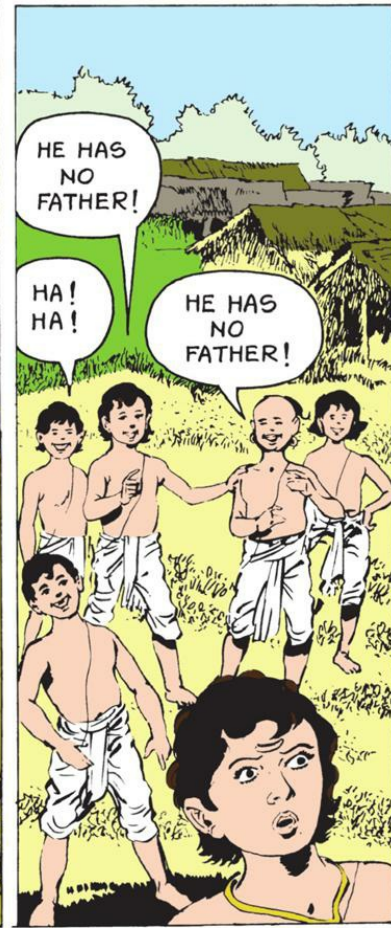
I'LL GO AND TELL MY FATHER!

I'LL ALSO GO AND TELL MY...



WHO? WHO WOULD YOU TELL?

YOU HAVE NO FATHER!



HE HAS NO FATHER!

HA! HA!

HE HAS NO FATHER!

MAHAJANAKA RAN TO HIS MOTHER.

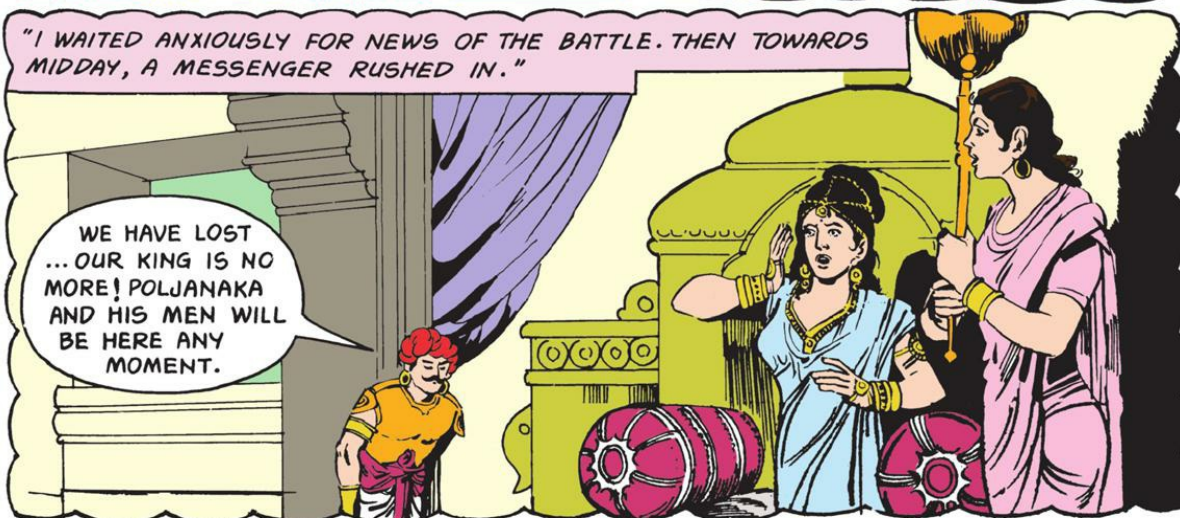
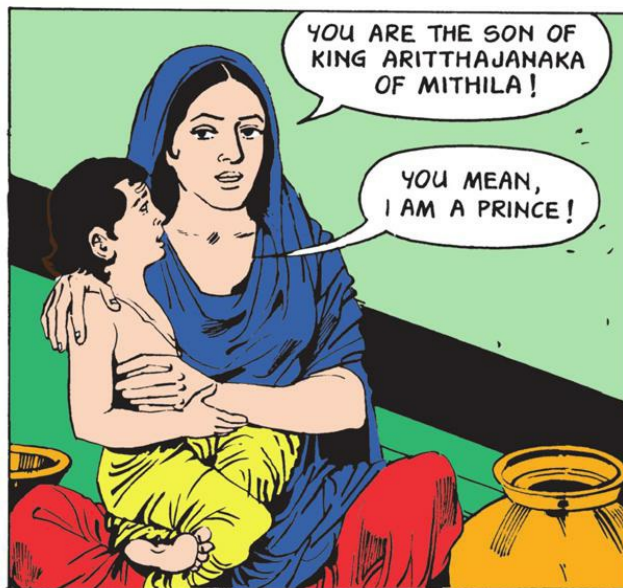


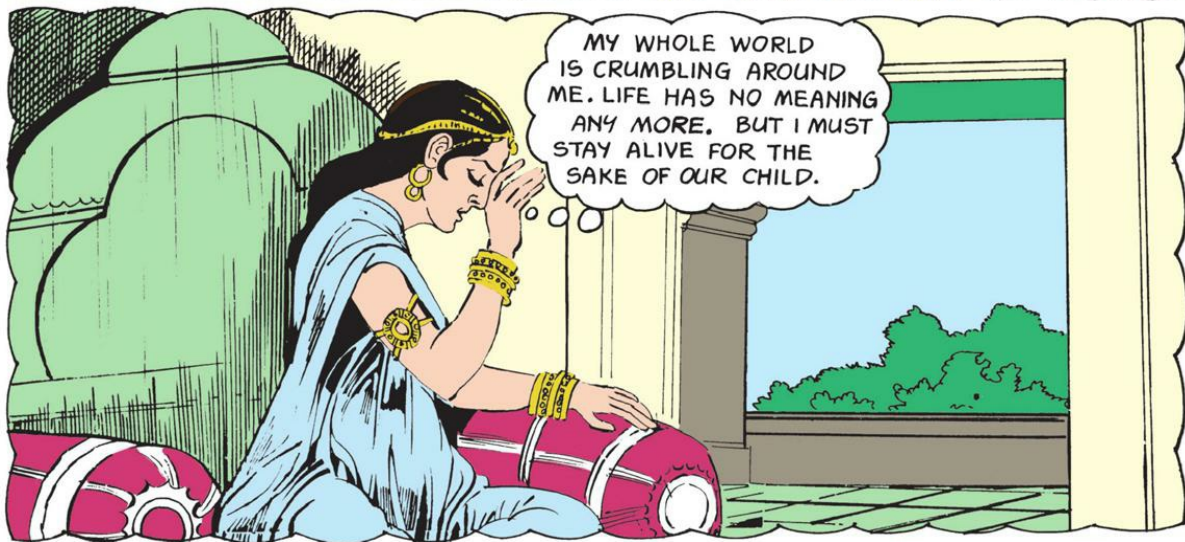
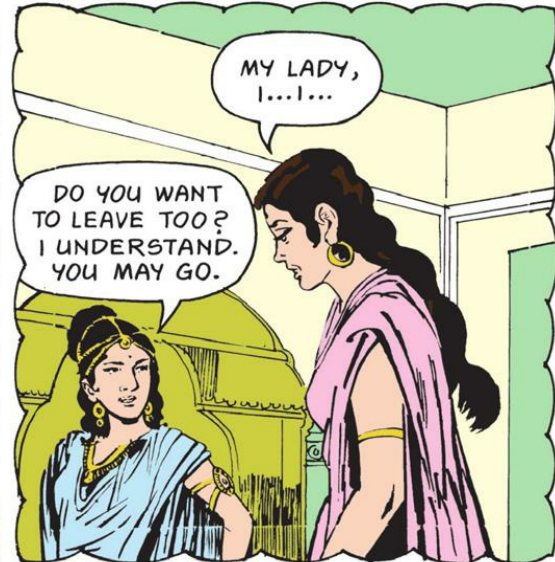
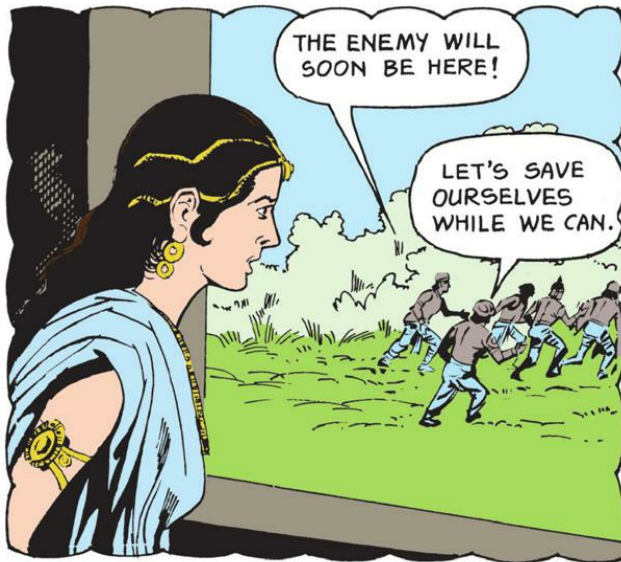
MOTHER, THEY SAY I HAVE NO FATHER. THEY SAY...



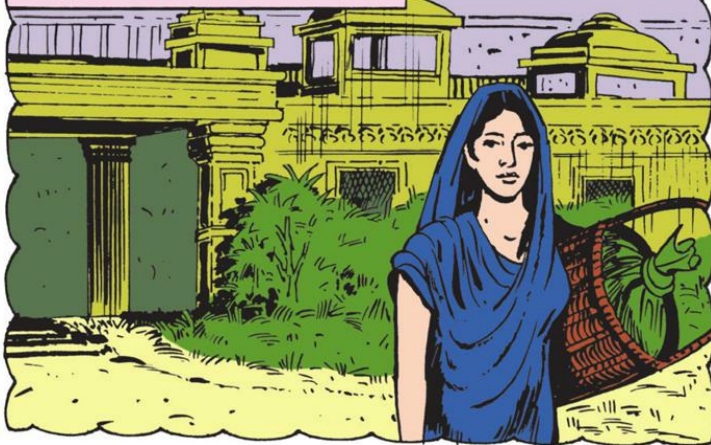
OH, MOTHER! WHO IS MY FATHER?

I'LL TELL YOU, SON. BUT DON'T CRY. PLEASE DON'T... THAT'S A GOOD BOY!

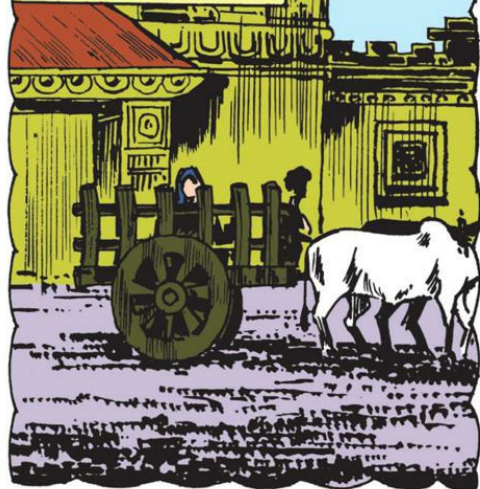




"AFTER THAT I CAST OFF MY ROYAL CLOTHES, DISGUISED MYSELF AS A MAID AND LEFT THE PALACE WITH THE BASKET."



"A CARTER BROUGHT ME HERE TO KALACHAMPA."



IF IT WERE NOT FOR OUR HOST AND HIS WIFE, I DON'T KNOW WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED TO ME... AND LATER YOU.



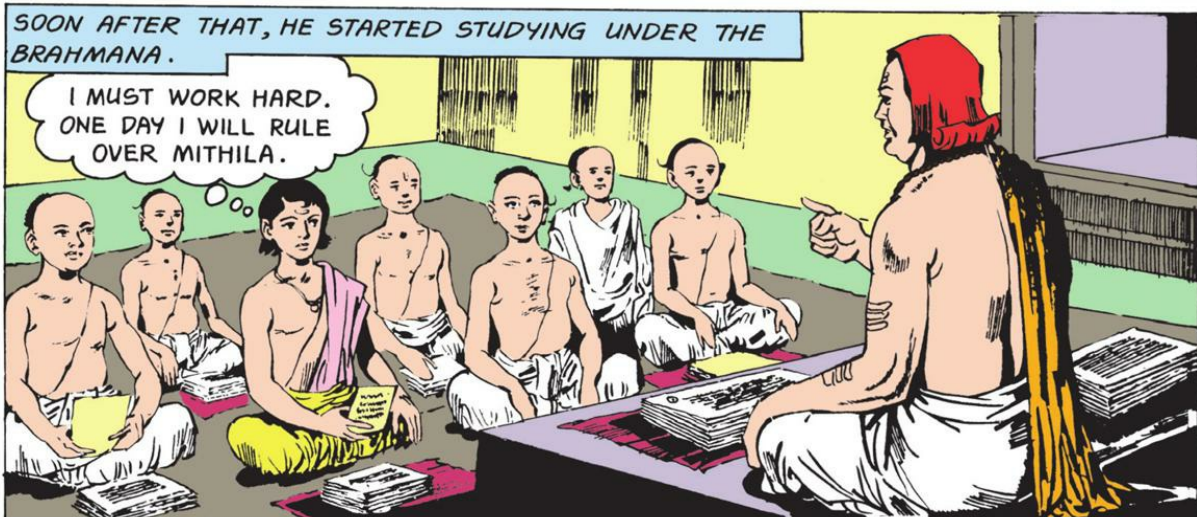
EVEN NOW I AM AFRAID OF OUR ENEMIES. NOBODY SHOULD KNOW WHO WE ARE.

DON'T WORRY, MOTHER. NO ONE WILL. I PROMISE.



SOON AFTER THAT, HE STARTED STUDYING UNDER THE BRAHMANA.

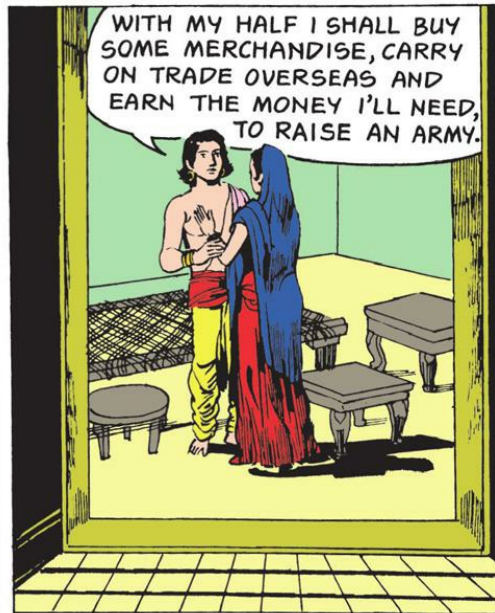
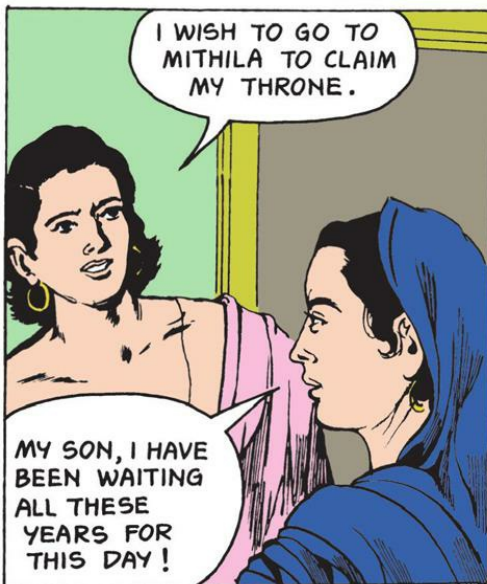
I MUST WORK HARD. ONE DAY I WILL RULE OVER MITHILA.



YEARS PASSED. MAHAJANAKA GREW UP TO BE A HANDSOME AND LEARNED MAN. ONE DAY —

MOTHER, DO YOU HAVE ANY MONEY WITH YOU ?

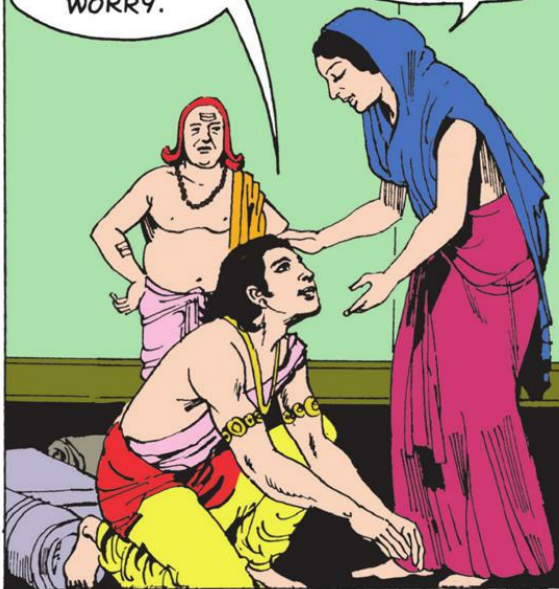
I DID NOT COME AWAY FROM MITHILA, EMPTY-HANDED. BUT WHY DO YOU ASK, MY SON?



SOON THE DAY OF DEPARTURE DAWNED.

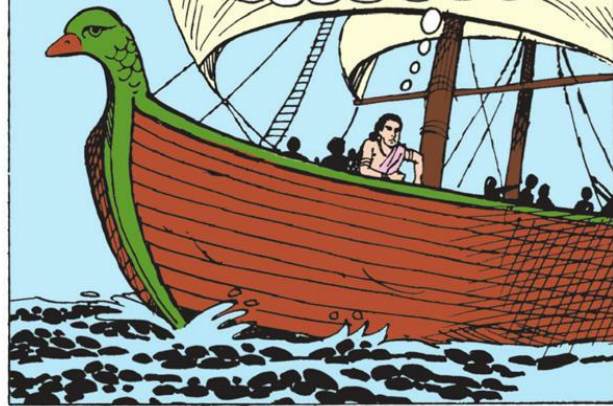
MOTHER, BLESS ME! AND DON'T WORRY.

MAY GOD BE WITH YOU, MY SON.

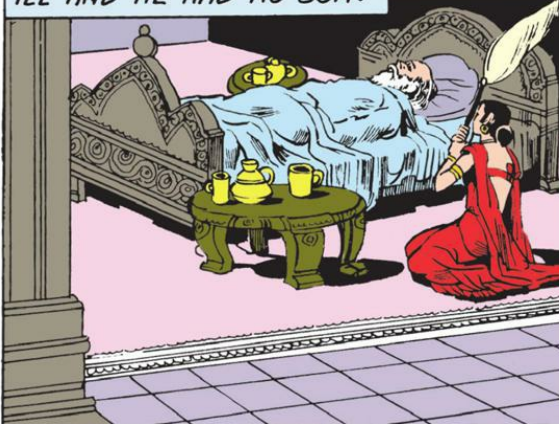


AS THE SHIP SET SAIL —

I WONDER IF POLJANAKA IS STILL ALIVE. WILL I HAVE TO FIGHT HIM OR HIS SON? I WONDER WHAT AWAITS ME AT MITHILA.



POLJANAKA WAS ALIVE BUT SERIOUSLY ILL AND HE HAD NO SON.



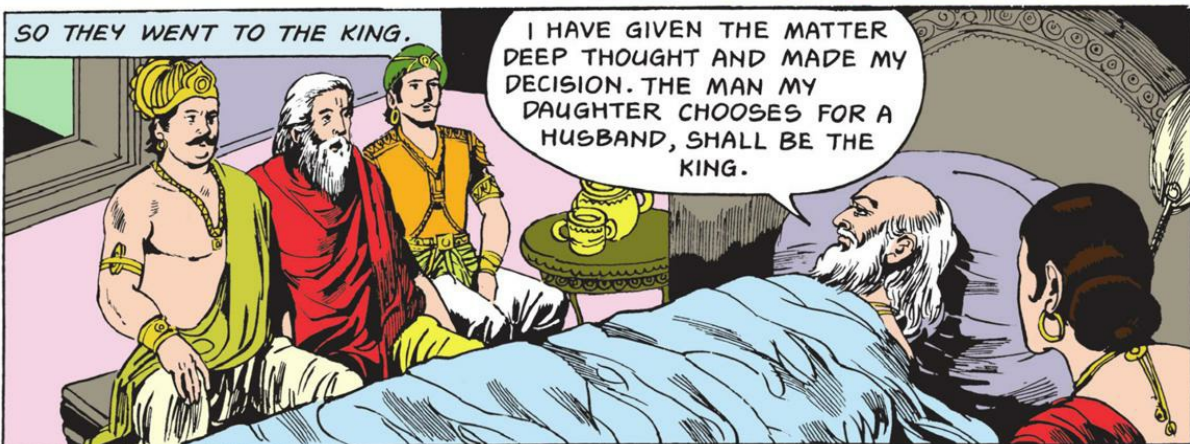
HIS MINISTERS WERE WORRIED ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE KINGDOM.

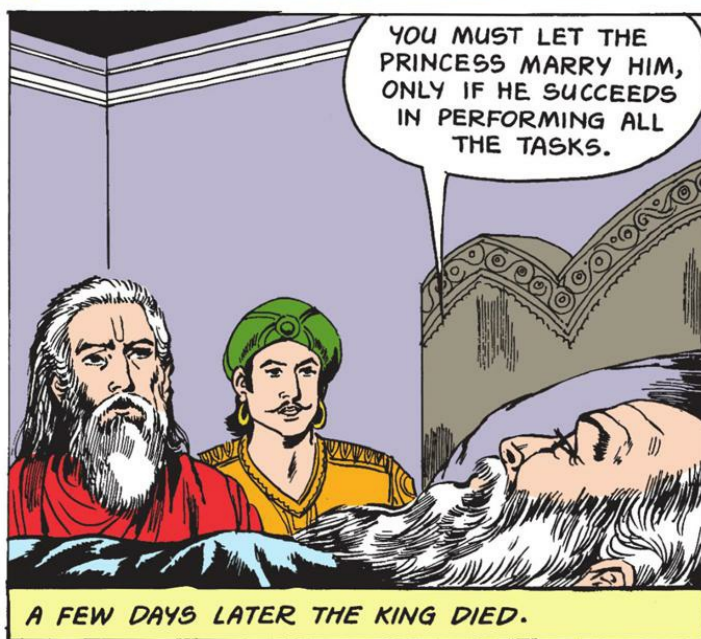
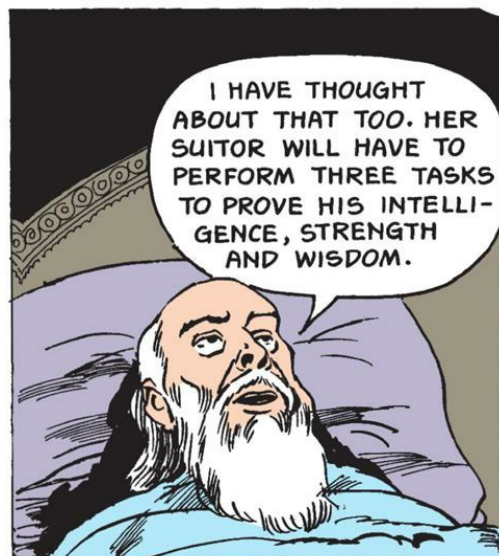
WHY DON'T WE ASK THE KING TO APPOINT A SUCCESSOR?

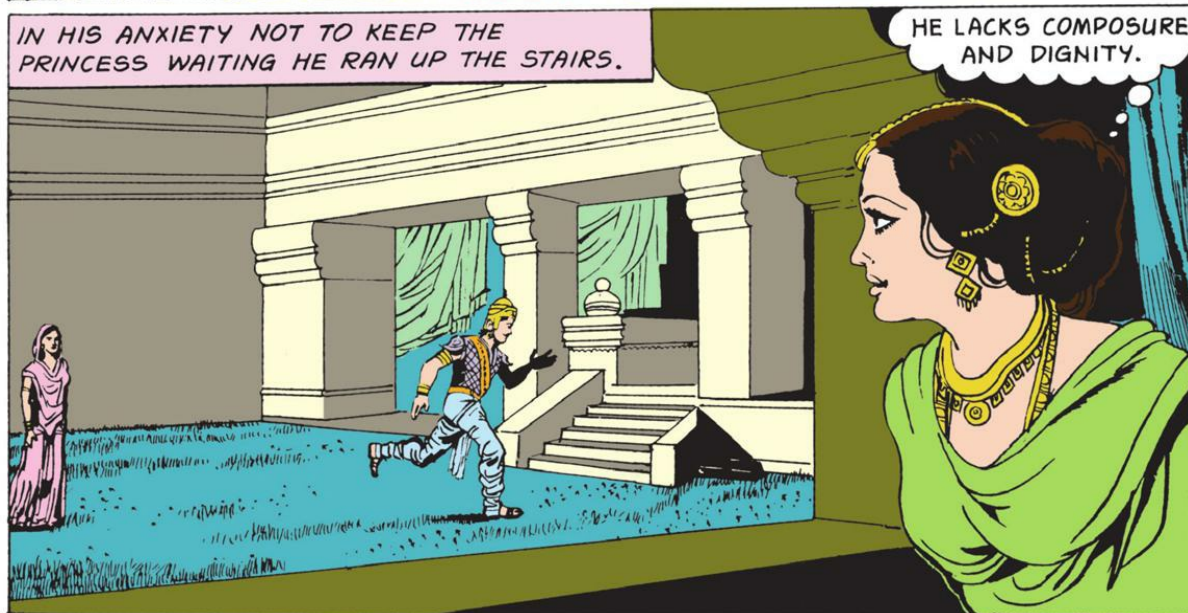
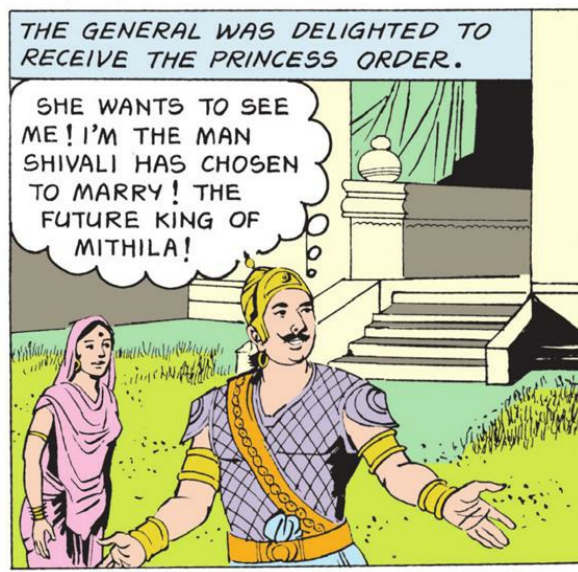
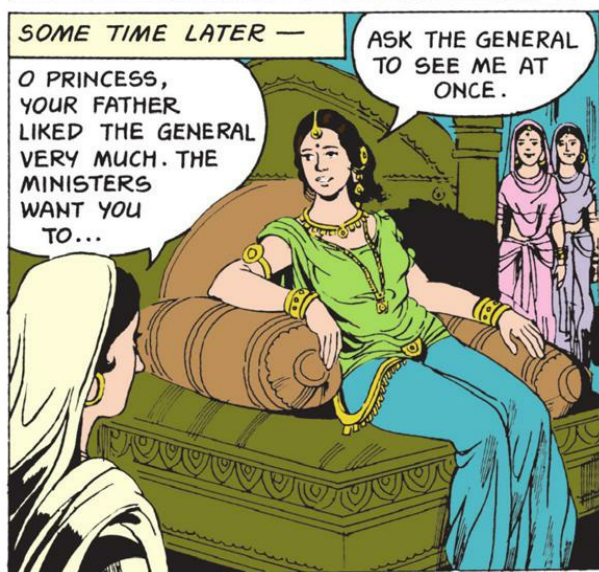


SO THEY WENT TO THE KING.

I HAVE GIVEN THE MATTER DEEP THOUGHT AND MADE MY DECISION. THE MAN MY DAUGHTER CHOOSES FOR A HUSBAND, SHALL BE THE KING.







SOON THE GENERAL STOOD BEFORE HER.

I AM AT YOUR SERVICE, PRINCESS.

WHAT CAN YOU DO FOR ME?

OH! ANYTHING! YOUR WORD IS MY COMMAND!

AH! IS THAT SO?

YES... I'LL STRIVE TO SERVE YOU IN EVERY WAY— EVEN PRESS YOUR FEET OR FETCH YOUR SLIPPERS!

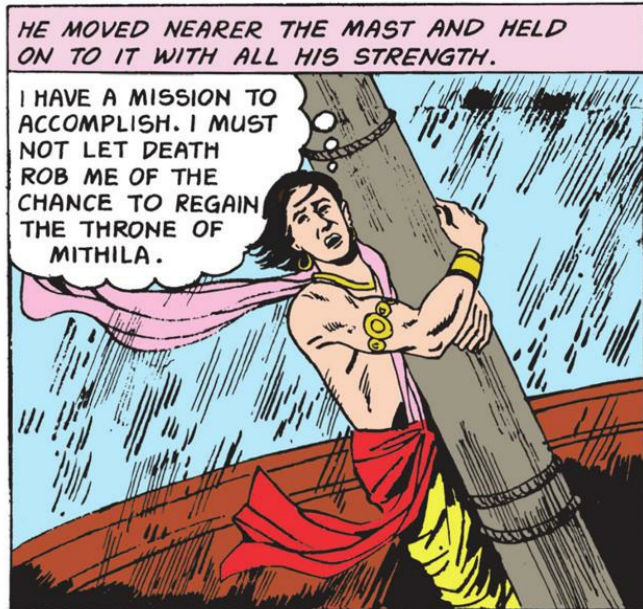
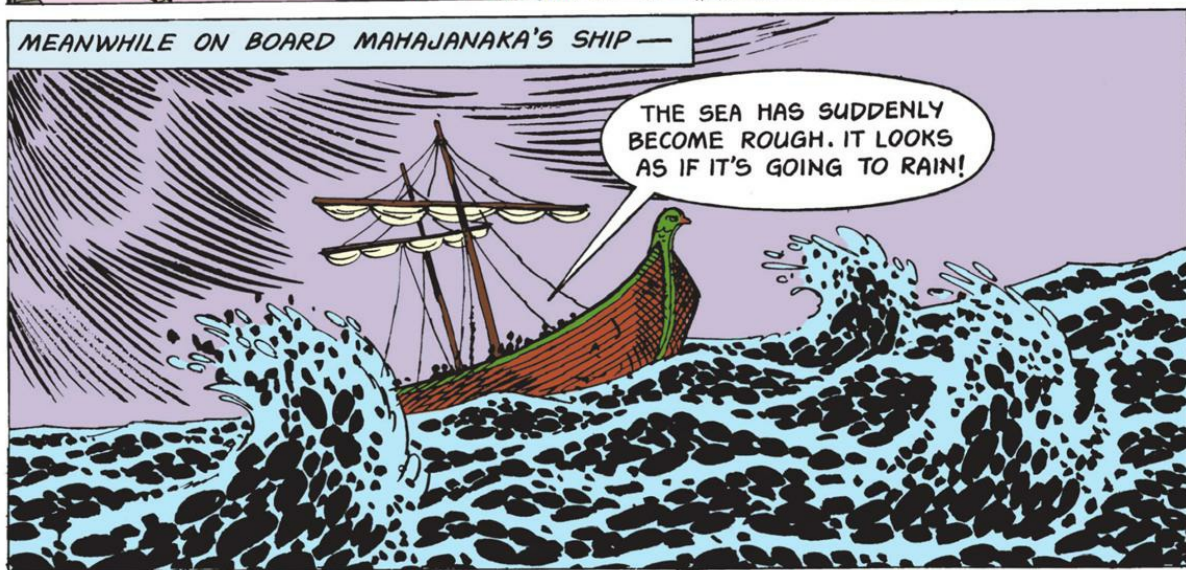
I COULD NEVER RESPECT THIS SERVILE CREATURE!

HOW CAN YOU BE SO MEEK! HAVE YOU NO SELF-RESPECT? YOU MAY GO NOW, GENERAL!

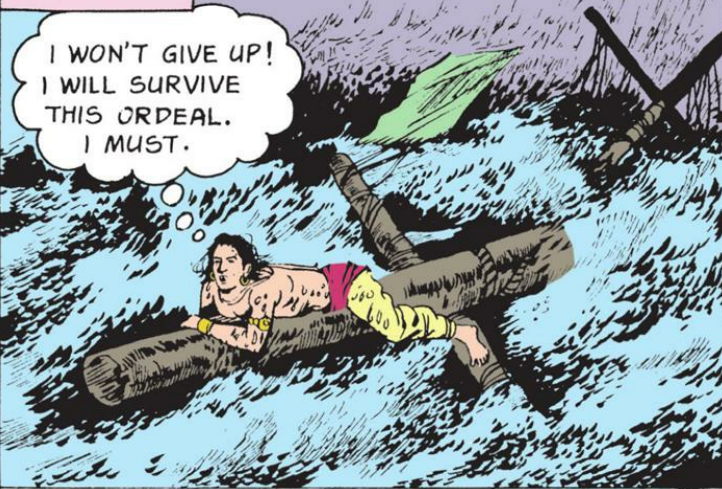
WHEN THE GENERAL RETURNED TO THE MINISTERS —

WHAT HAPPENED? YOU LOOK CREST-FALLEN!

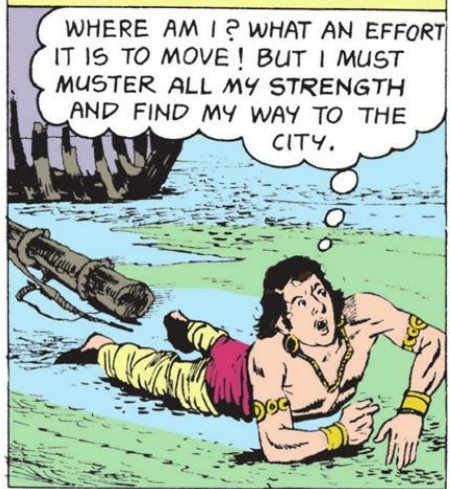
THAT GIRL IS HARD TO PLEASE!



AS THE SHIP SANK UNDER THE ONSLAUGHT OF THE WAVES, MAHAJANAKA TIGHTENED HIS GRIP ON THE MAST.



A FEW DAYS LATER, MAHAJANAKA WAS WASHED ASHORE. WHEN HE OPENED HIS EYES —



LATER, IN A GARDEN OUTSIDE THE EASTERN GATE OF THE CITY, HE OVERHEARD TWO MEN TALKING.



AT THE PALACE, MEANWHILE —

NOT A SINGLE
MAN IN THE
KINGDOM HAS
BEEN ABLE TO
PLEASE THE
PRINCESS.

FOR HOW LONG
CAN THE KINGDOM
REMAIN WITHOUT
A KING ?

PERHAPS,
THE ROYAL
PRIEST
CAN HELP
US.



WHEN THEY CONSULTED THE ROYAL
PRIEST —

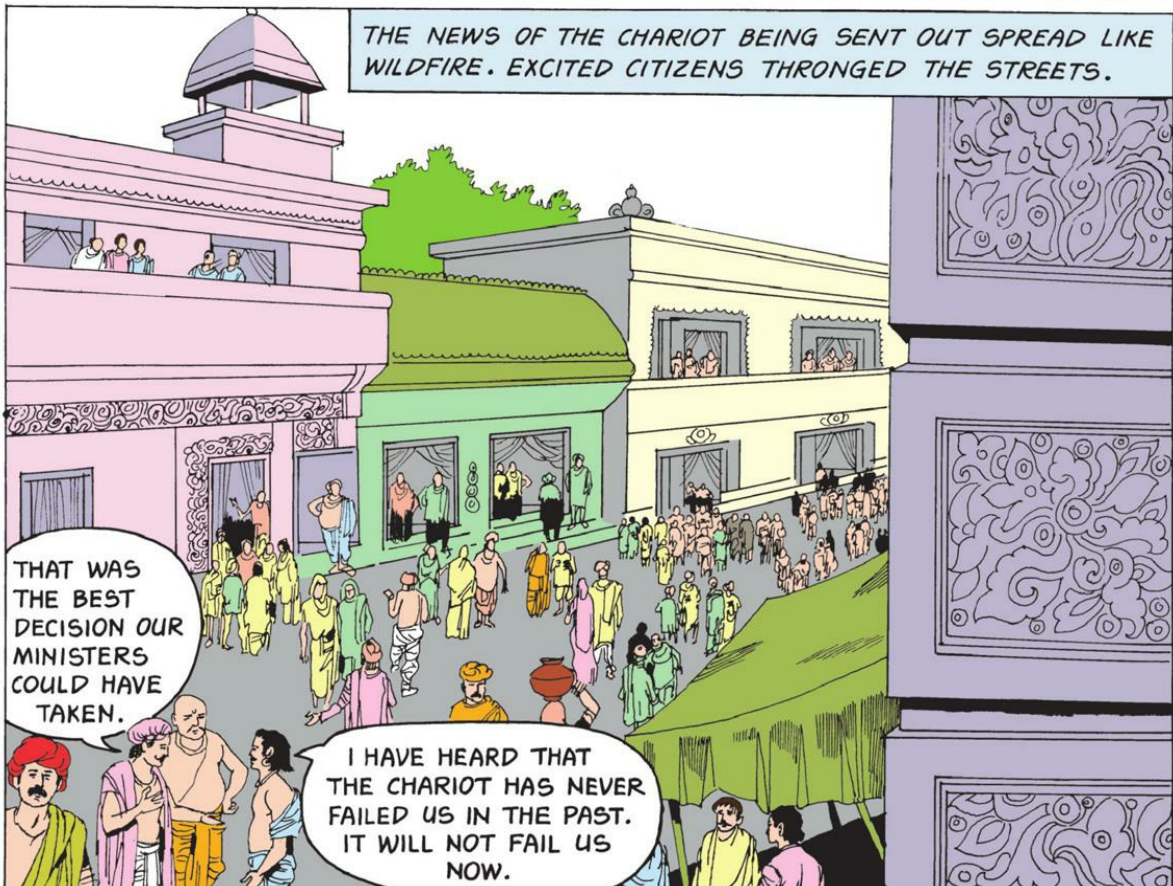
SEND OUT
THE SACRED
CHARIOT. IT
WILL LEAD US
TO THE RIGHT
MAN.



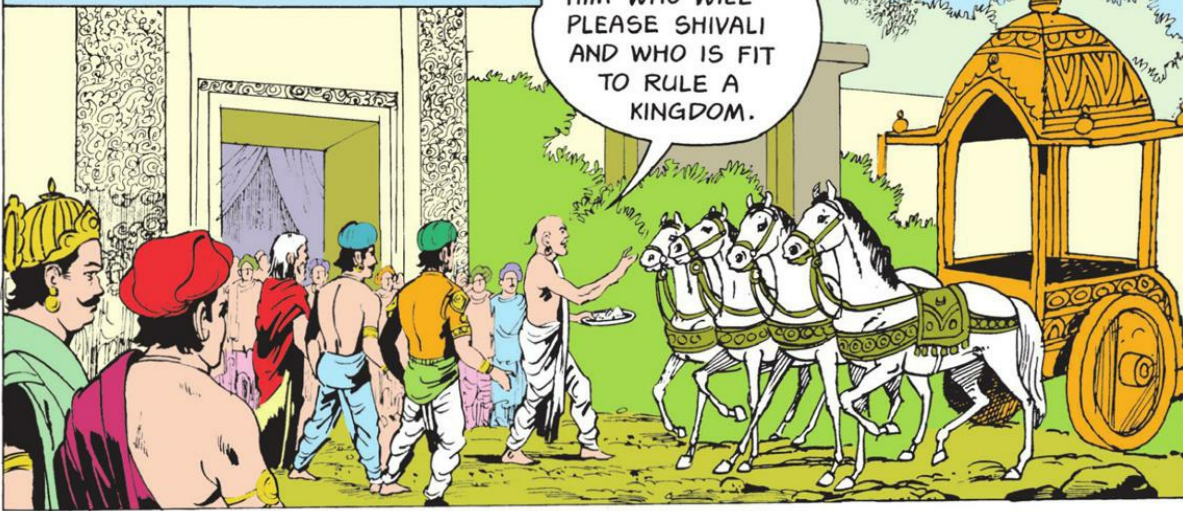
THE NEWS OF THE CHARIOT BEING SENT OUT SPREAD LIKE
WILDFIRE. EXCITED CITIZENS THROGGED THE STREETS.

THAT WAS
THE BEST
DECISION OUR
MINISTERS
COULD HAVE
TAKEN.

I HAVE HEARD THAT
THE CHARIOT HAS NEVER
FAILED US IN THE PAST.
IT WILL NOT FAIL US
NOW.

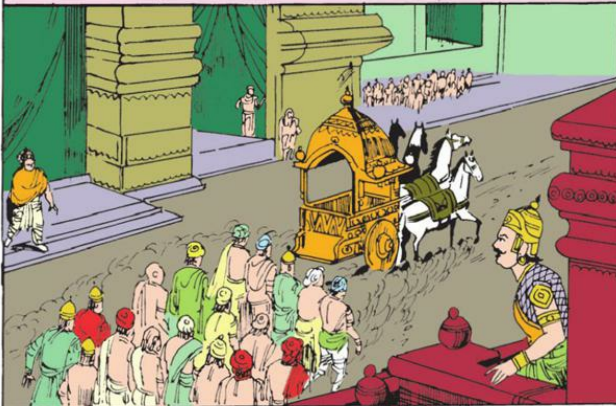


AT THE AUSPICIOUS HOUR THE ROYAL PRIEST STOOD BEFORE THE CHARIOT.

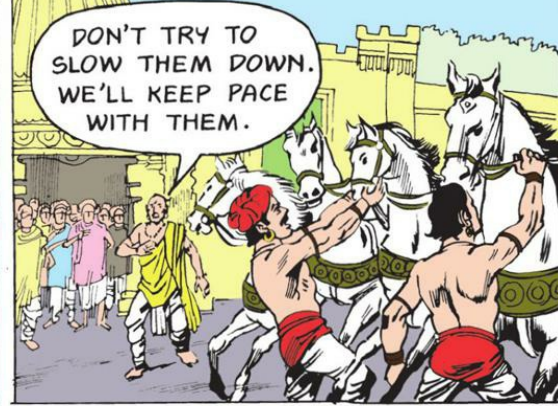


LEAD US TO HIM WHO WILL PLEASE SHIVALI AND WHO IS FIT TO RULE A KINGDOM.

THE ROYAL PRIEST WITH THE MINISTERS WALKED BEHIND THE CHARIOT AS IT ROLLED PAST THE HOUSES OF THE GENERAL, THE TREASURER, AND ALL THE OTHER SUITORS.

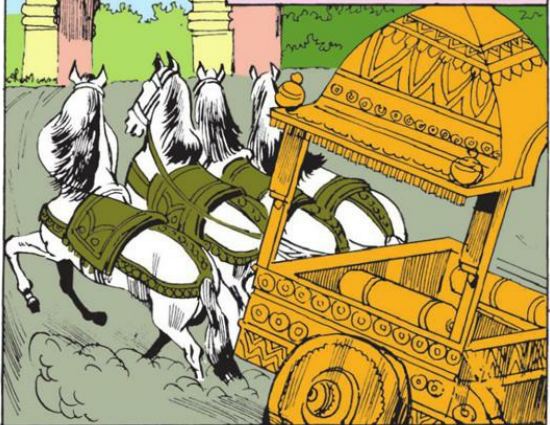


SUDDENLY THE HORSES BROKE INTO A GALLOP.

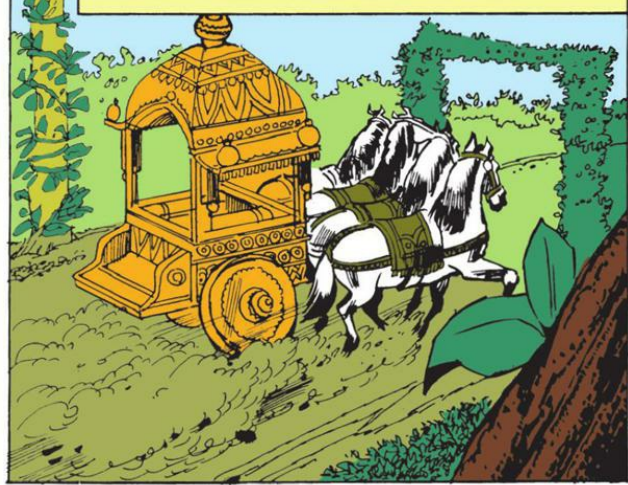


DON'T TRY TO SLOW THEM DOWN. WE'LL KEEP PACE WITH THEM.

THE CHARIOT SPED ON TOWARDS THE EASTERN GATE OF THE CITY...

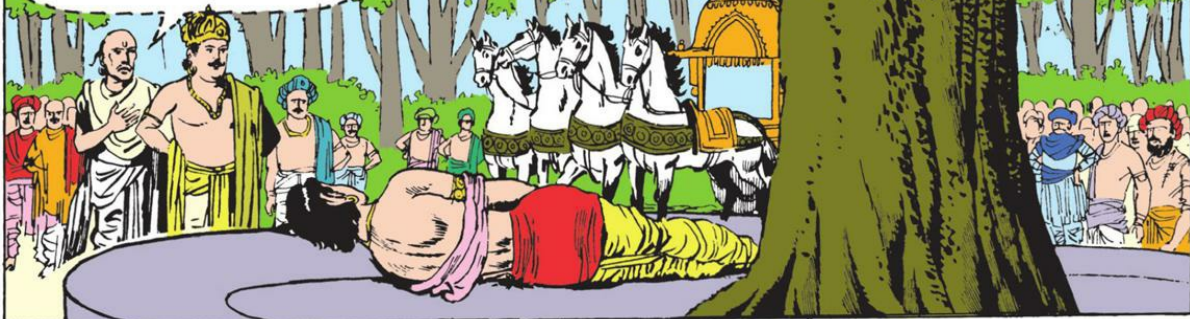


...AND THEN ENTERING THE GARDEN...



...CAME TO A HALT NEAR THE SPOT WHERE MAHAJANAKA LAY SLEEPING.

THE CHARIOT HAS NEVER FAILED US... BUT... HE'S A TOTAL STRANGER.



I HAVE AN IDEA. LET THE DRUMS BE BEATEN AND THE HORNS BE BLOWN. LET THERE BE A DEAFENING UPROAR.



HOW HE WAKES UP, WHAT HE DOES AND SAYS, WILL TELL US MUCH ABOUT HIM. HE'S STIRRING!

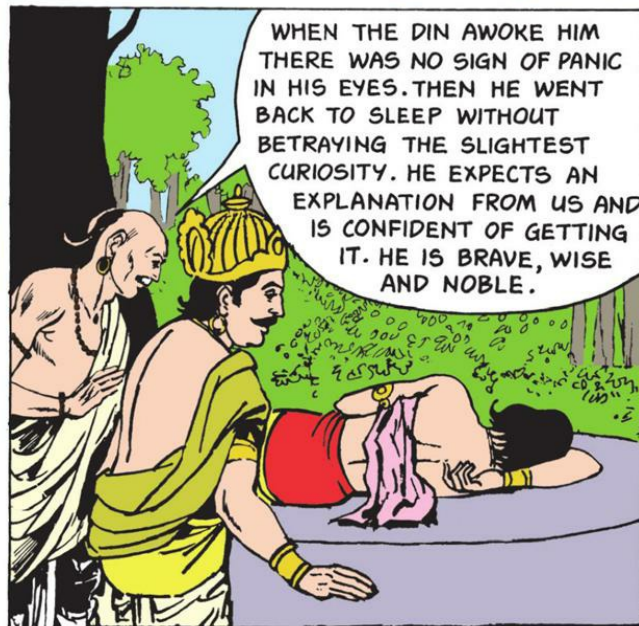


THE NOISE AROUND HIM AWOKE MAHAJANAKA.

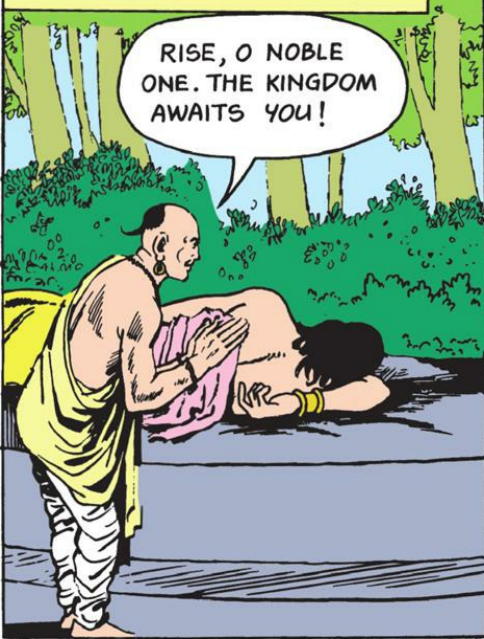
WHAT A TERRIBLE DIN! WHY ARE ALL THESE PEOPLE HERE? HM.M.M. I'LL KNOW SOONER OR LATER.



WHEN THE DIN AWOKE HIM THERE WAS NO SIGN OF PANIC IN HIS EYES. THEN HE WENT BACK TO SLEEP WITHOUT BETRAYING THE SLIGHTEST CURIOSITY. HE EXPECTS AN EXPLANATION FROM US AND IS CONFIDENT OF GETTING IT. HE IS BRAVE, WISE AND NOBLE.

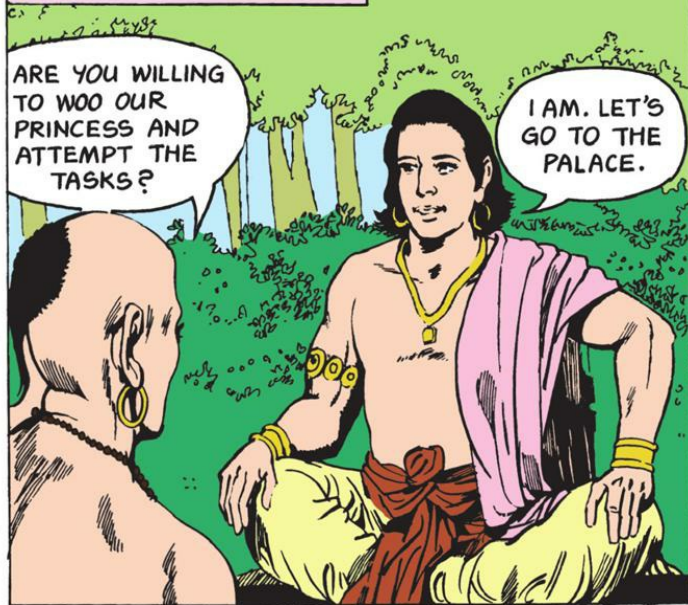


THE PRIEST CAME FORWARD.



RISE, O NOBLE
ONE. THE KINGDOM
AWAITS YOU!

WHEN MAHAJANAKA SAT UP, THE PRIEST
EXPLAINED ALL TO HIM.



ARE YOU WILLING
TO WOO OUR
PRINCESS AND
ATTEMPT THE
TASKS?

I AM. LET'S
GO TO THE
PALACE.

LED BY MAHAJANAKA WHO WAS SEATED IN
THE CHARIOT, THE PROCESSION WENDED
ITS WAY TO THE PALACE.



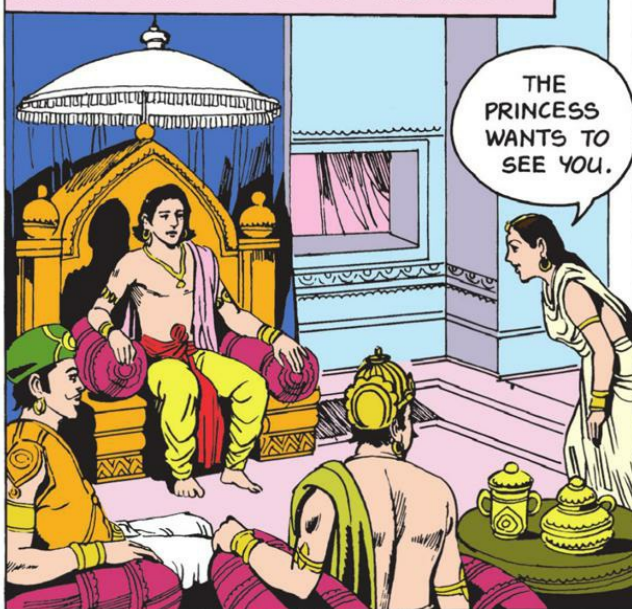
LONG LIVE
THE KING!

WHEN PRINCESS SHIVALI WAS TOLD
ABOUT MAHAJANAKA —

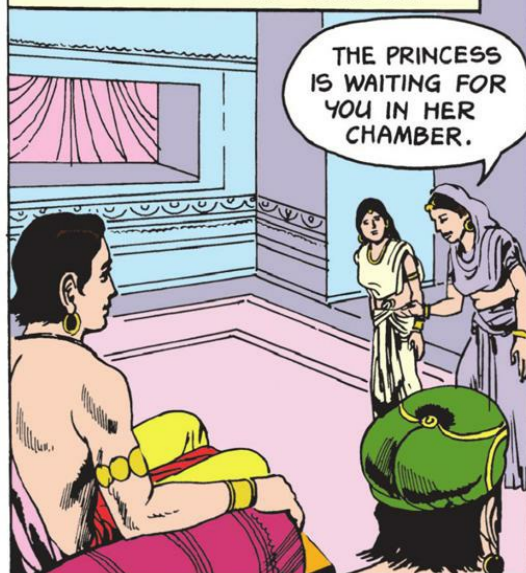


A TOTAL STRANGER?
THE CHARIOT MAY
HAVE FOUND HIM TO
BE THE RIGHT MAN.
BUT WILL I? ASK HIM
TO SEE ME AT ONCE.

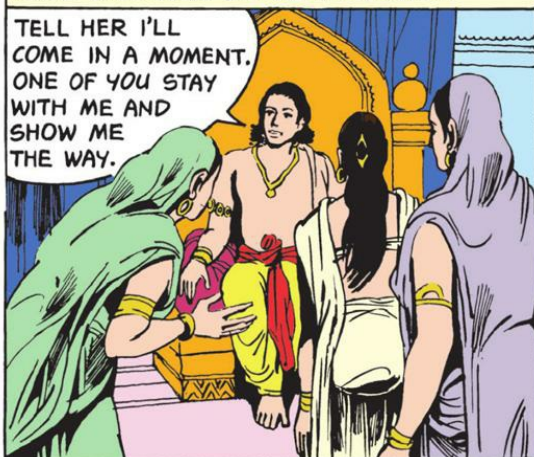
SHIVALI'S MAID DID AS SHE WAS TOLD.



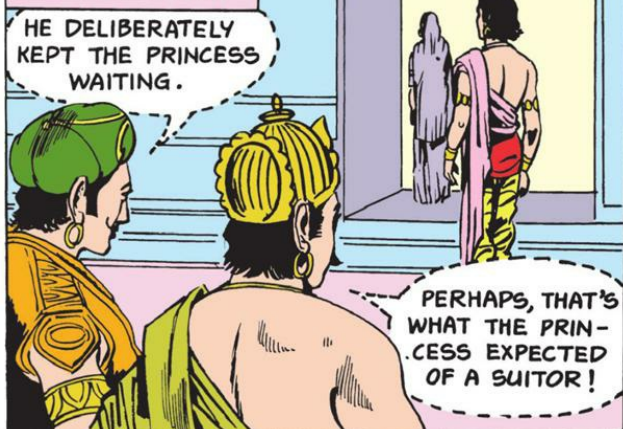
BUT MAHAJANAKA DID NOT MOVE. SOON ANOTHER MAID CAME IN.



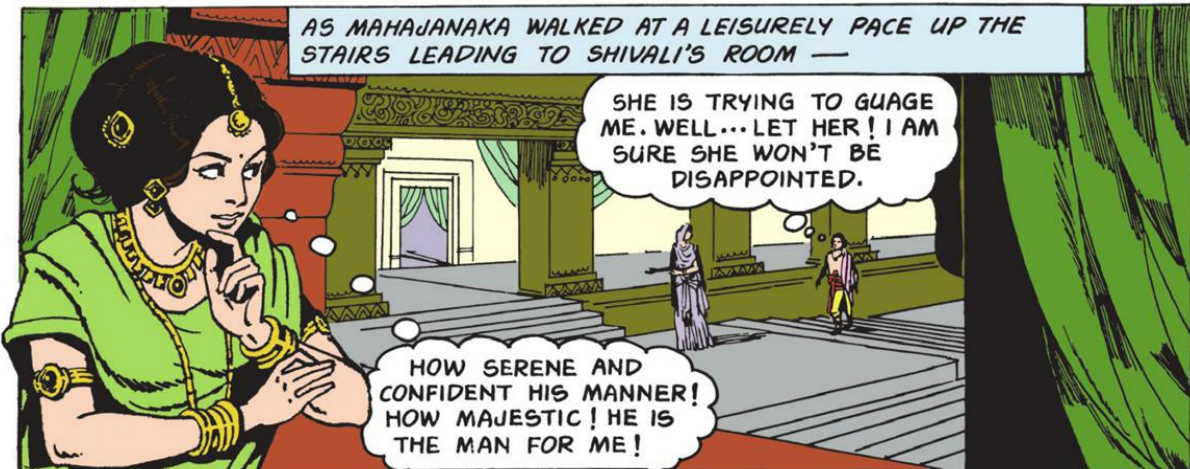
ONLY WHEN A THIRD MAID BROUGHT THE SAME MESSAGE DID HE RESPOND.



HE TOOK HIS OWN TIME TO GET UP AND WALKED SLOWLY, REGALLY TOWARDS THE PRINCESS' ROOM.



AS MAHAJANAKA WALKED AT A LEISURELY PACE UP THE STAIRS LEADING TO SHIVALI'S ROOM —



SHE CAME OUT TO GREET HIM.

WELCOME,
MY LORD!

LITTLE DID I DREAM
THAT TO REGAIN MITHILA,
I WOULD HAVE TO WIN
THE RESPECT OF A
PRINCESS AND NOT
A BATTLE!



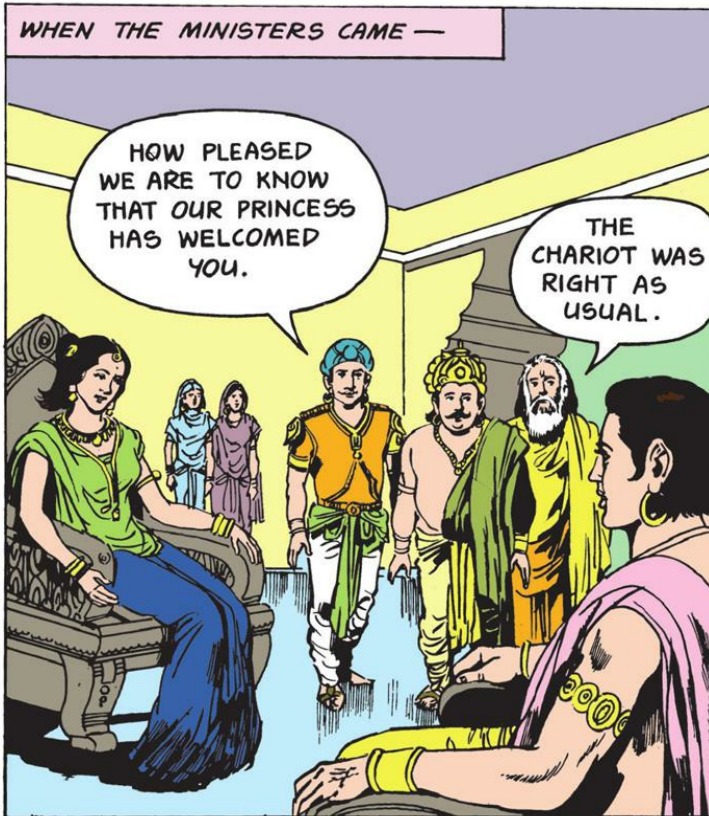
WON'T YOU COME
IN? I'LL SEND FOR
THE MINISTERS.



WHEN THE MINISTERS CAME —

HOW PLEASED
WE ARE TO KNOW
THAT OUR PRINCESS
HAS WELCOMED
YOU.

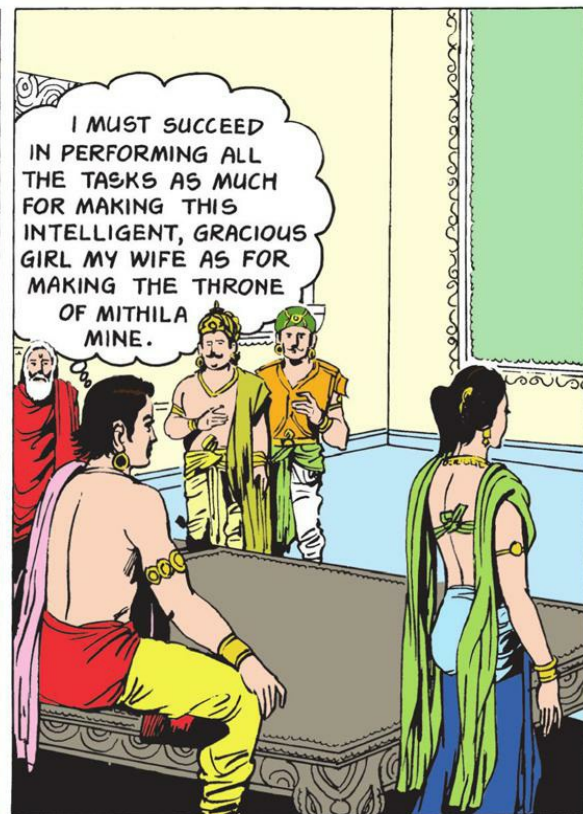
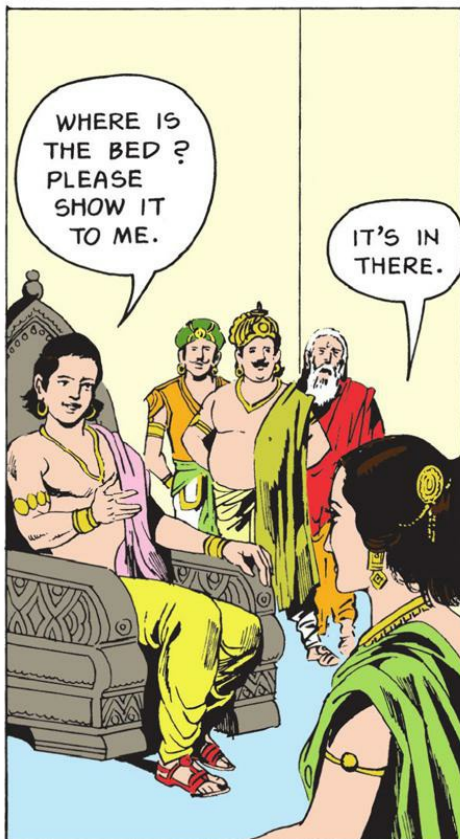
THE
CHARIOT WAS
RIGHT AS
USUAL.

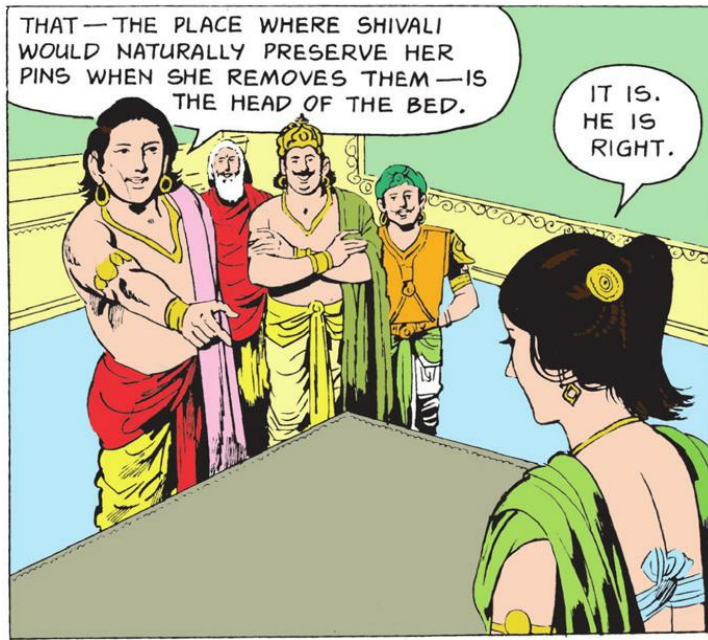


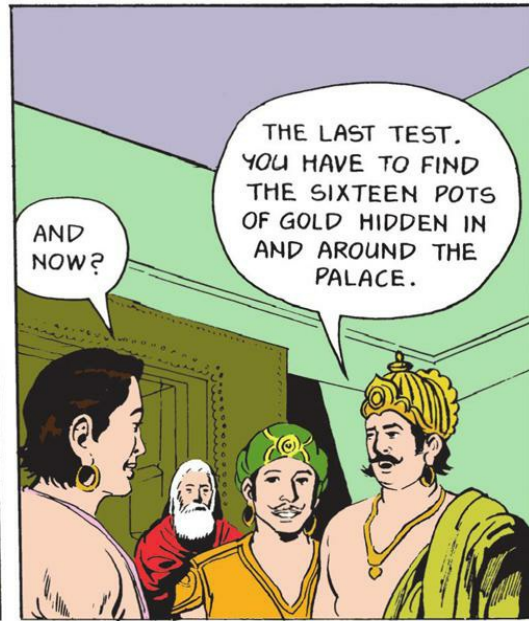
NOW FOR THE
TASKS. FIRST
YOU WILL HAVE
TO FIND THE
HEAD OF A
SQUARE BED.

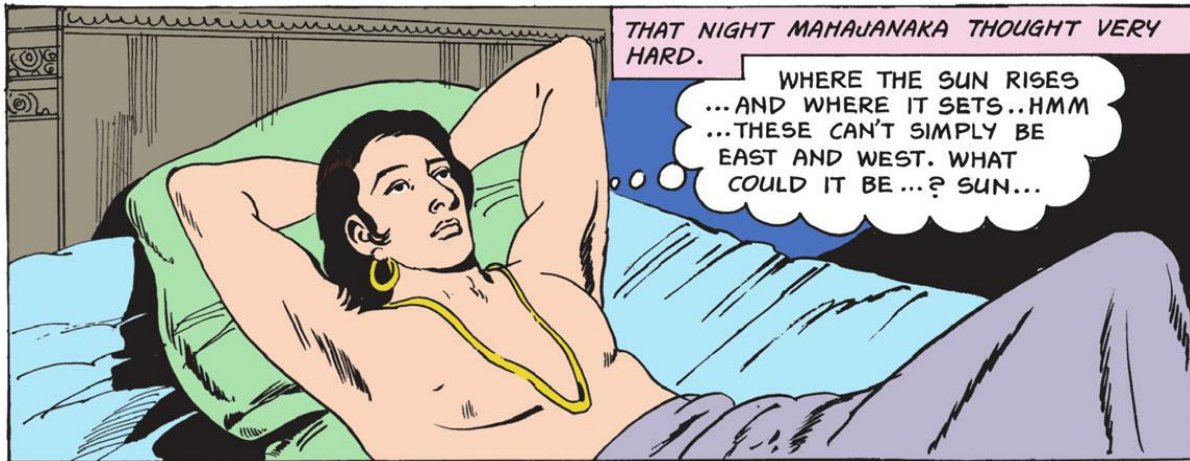
IS THAT
ALL?





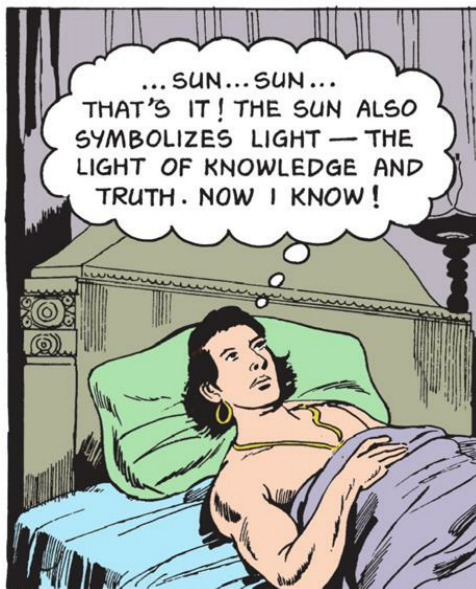






THAT NIGHT MAHAJANAKA THOUGHT VERY HARD.

WHERE THE SUN RISES
...AND WHERE IT SETS...HMM
...THESE CAN'T SIMPLY BE
EAST AND WEST. WHAT
COULD IT BE...? SUN...

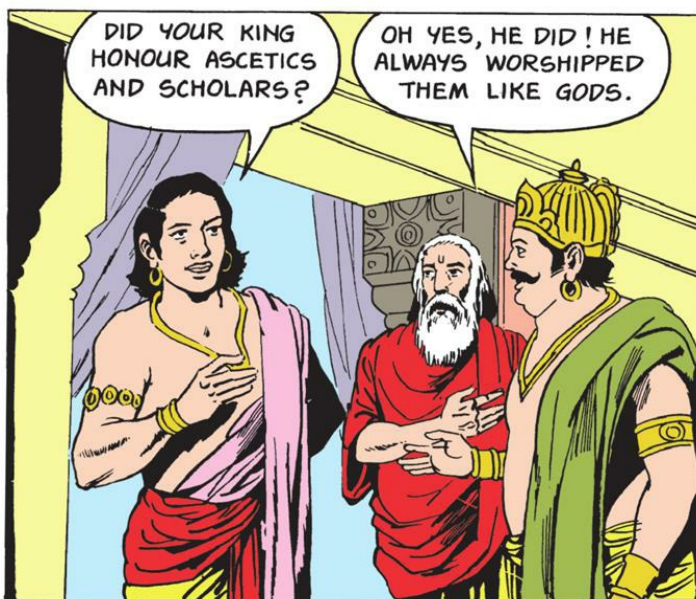


... SUN... SUN...
THAT'S IT! THE SUN ALSO
SYMBOLIZES LIGHT — THE
LIGHT OF KNOWLEDGE AND
TRUTH. NOW I KNOW!

THE NEXT MORNING WHEN THE MINISTERS
ASSEMBLED IN THE HALL —

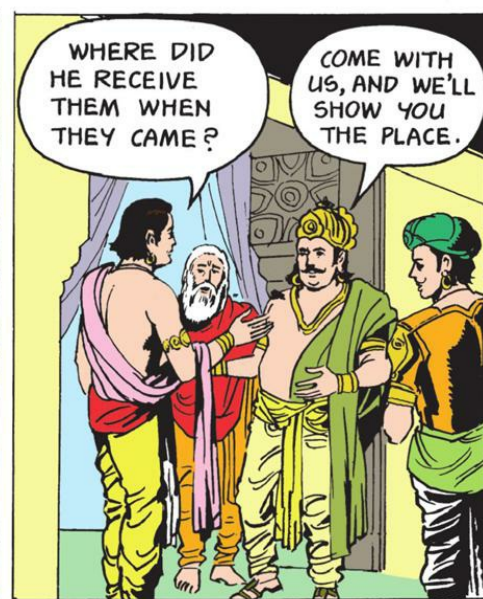


I'LL TRY TO
FIND THE POTS
TODAY. BUT, FIRST,
I'D LIKE TO KNOW
JUST ONE THING.



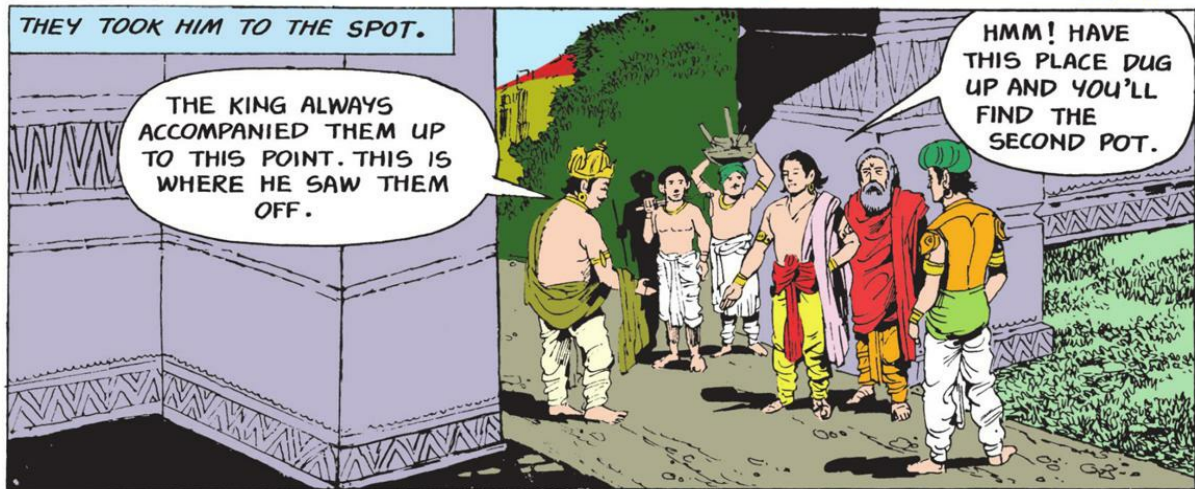
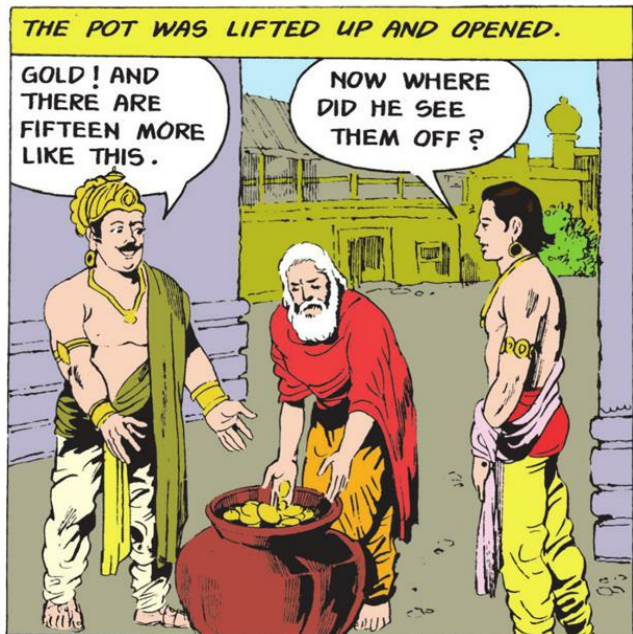
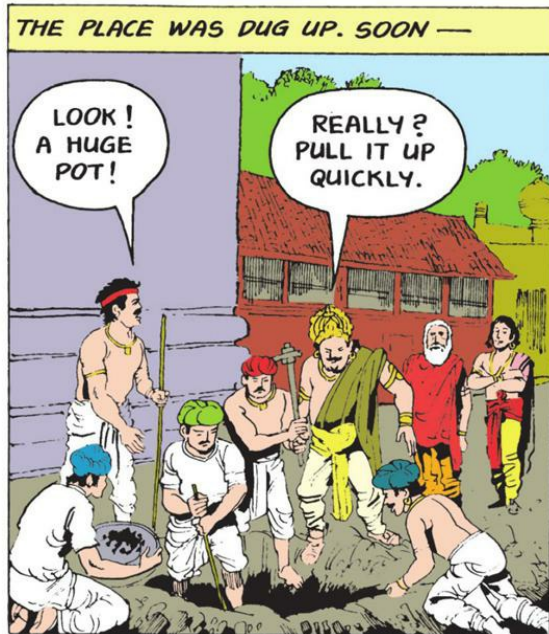
DID YOUR KING
HONOUR ASCETICS
AND SCHOLARS?

OH YES, HE DID! HE
ALWAYS WORSHIPPED
THEM LIKE GODS.



WHERE DID
HE RECEIVE
THEM WHEN
THEY CAME?

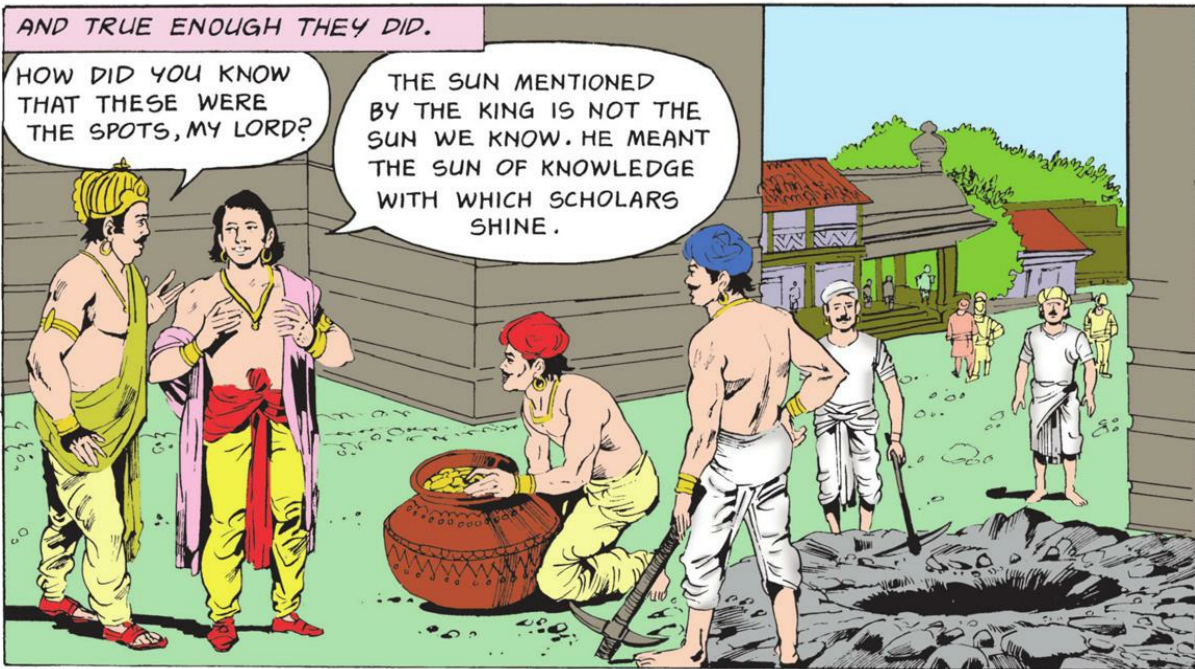
COME WITH
US, AND WE'LL
SHOW YOU
THE PLACE.



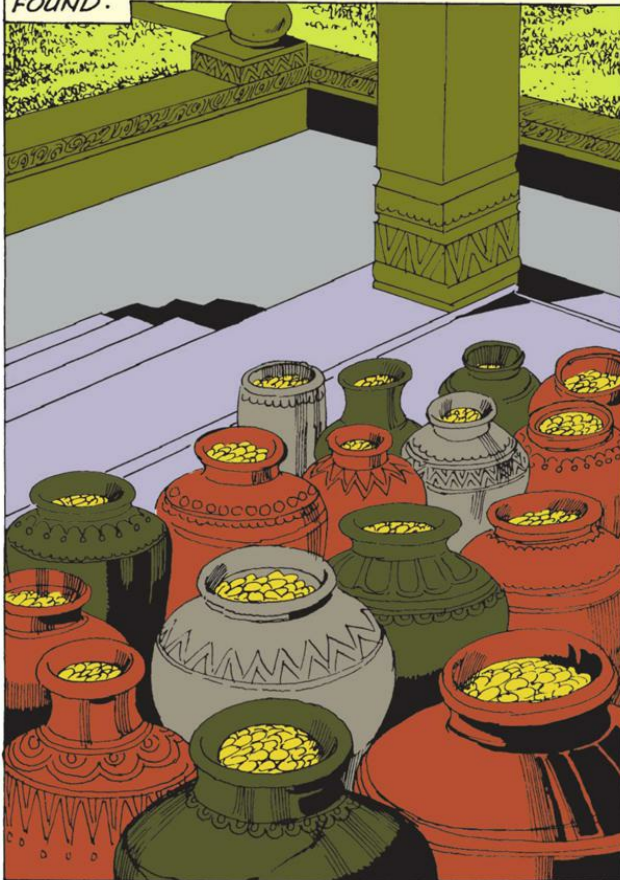
AND TRUE ENOUGH THEY DID.

HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT THESE WERE THE SPOTS, MY LORD?

THE SUN MENTIONED BY THE KING IS NOT THE SUN WE KNOW. HE MEANT THE SUN OF KNOWLEDGE WITH WHICH SCHOLARS SHINE.

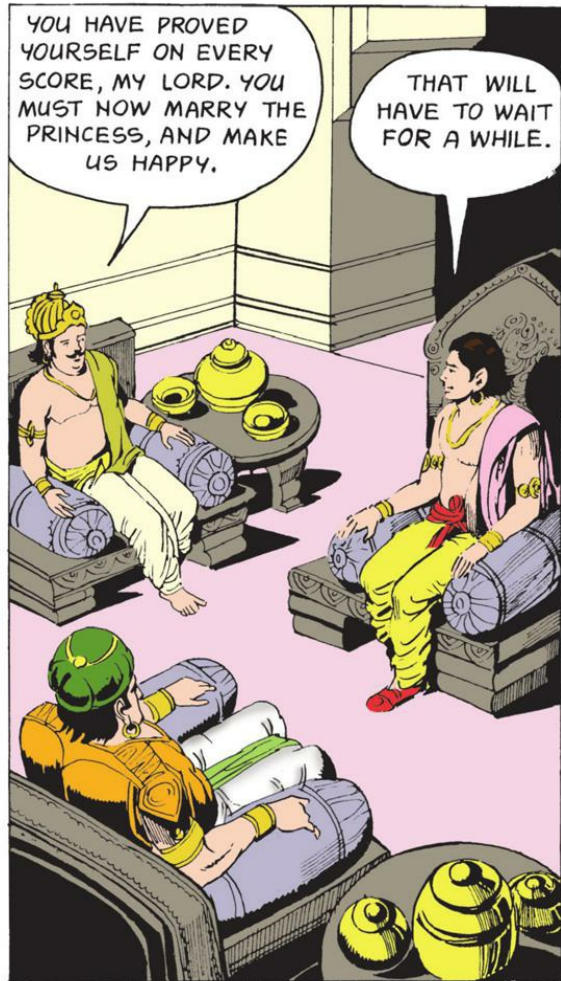


AFTER THIS MAHAJANAKA DECIPHERED THE REMAINING CLUES ONE AFTER THE OTHER AND ALL THE SIXTEEN POTS WERE FOUND.



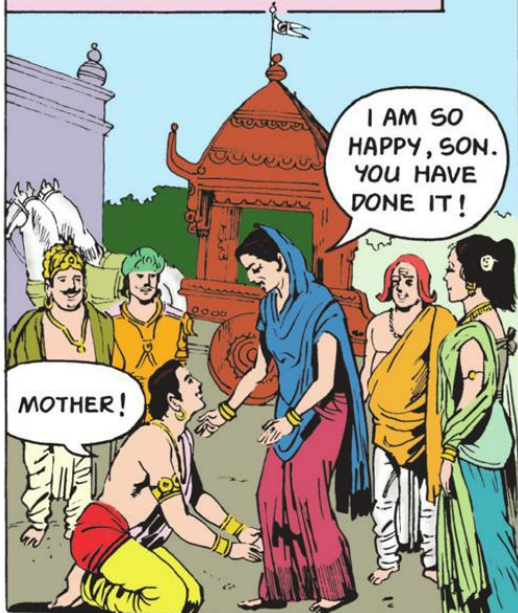
YOU HAVE PROVED YOURSELF ON EVERY SCORE, MY LORD. YOU MUST NOW MARRY THE PRINCESS, AND MAKE US HAPPY.

THAT WILL HAVE TO WAIT FOR A WHILE.

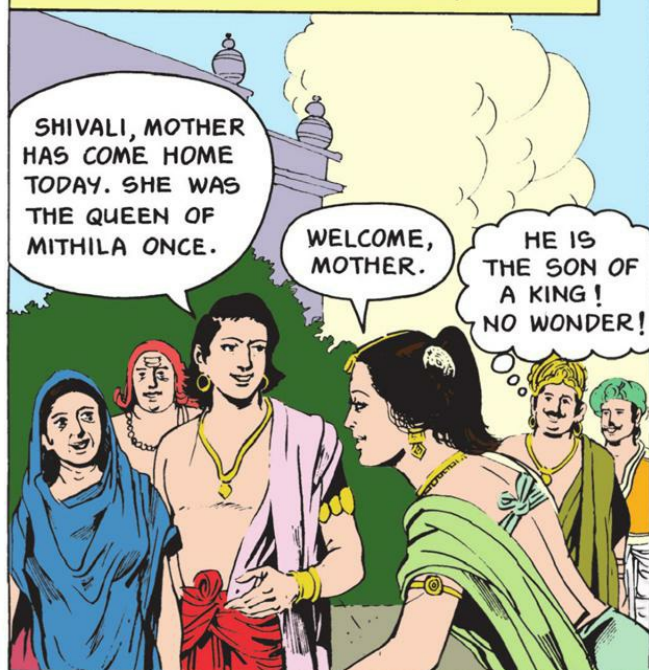




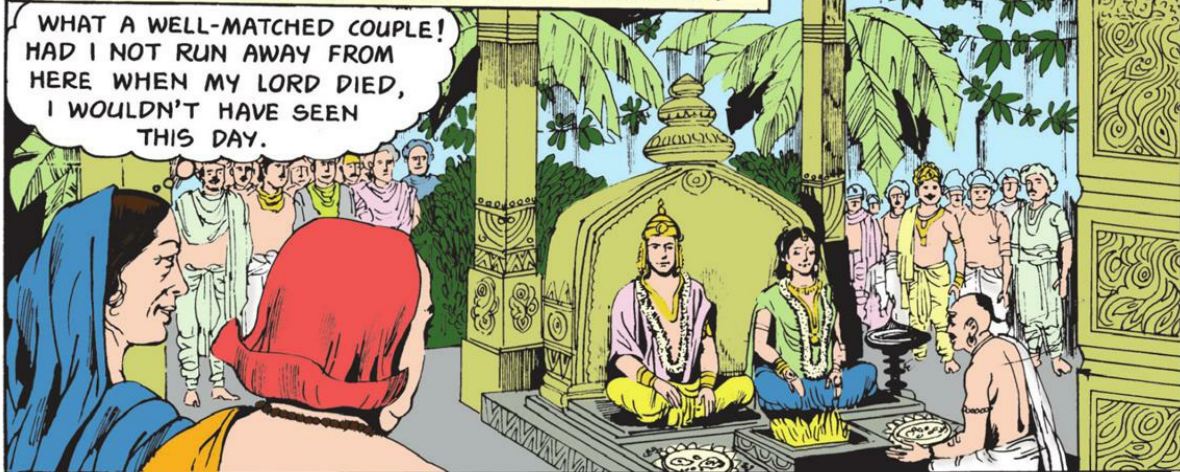
AFTER A FEW WEEKS THE BRAHMANA ARRIVED WITH MAHAJANAKA'S MOTHER.



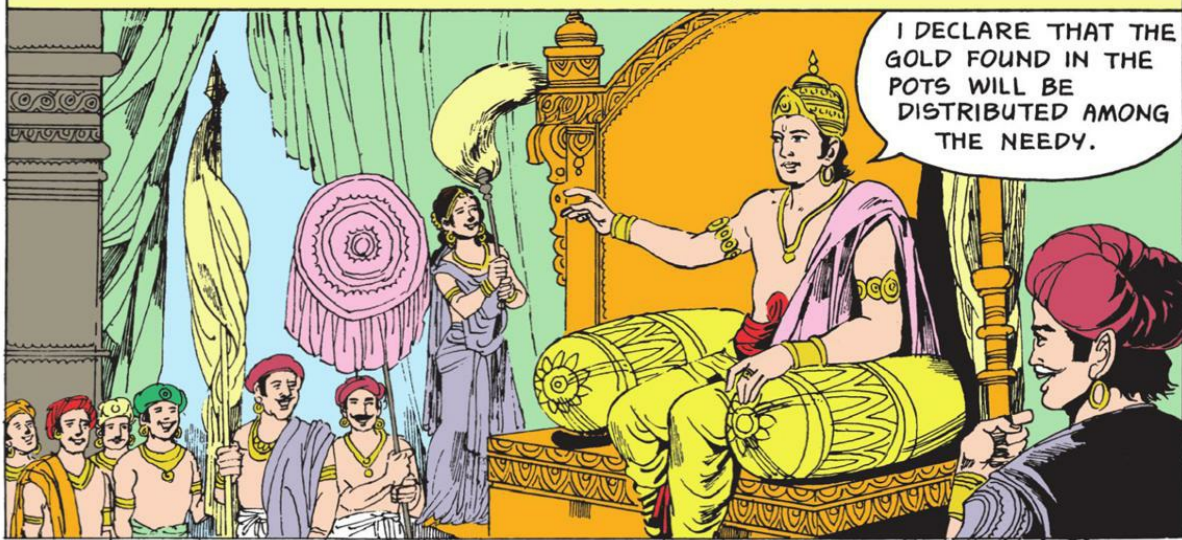
MAHAJANAKA TURNED TO SHIVALI —



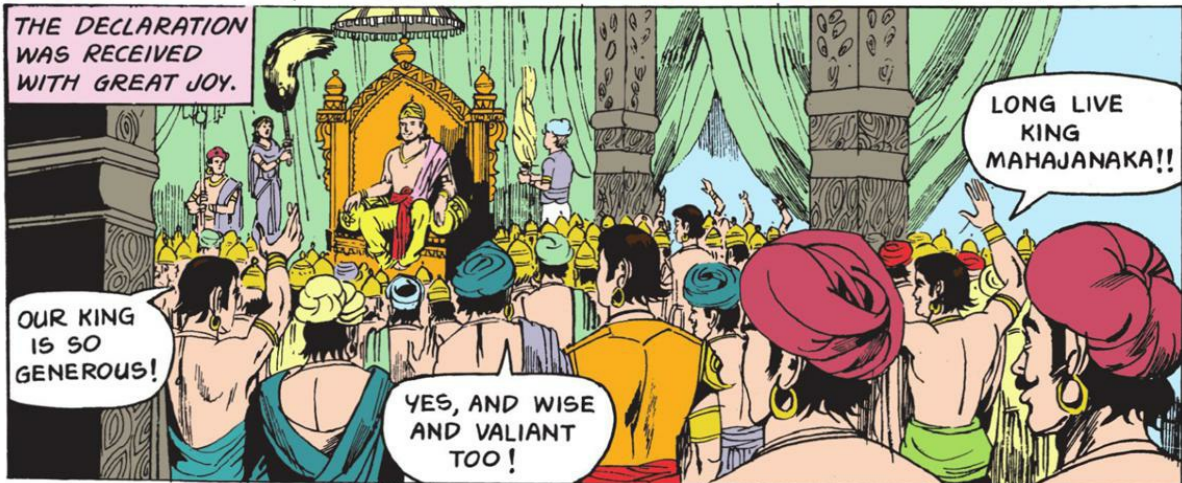
LATER, MAHAJANAKA AND SHIVALI WERE MARRIED.



WHEN MAHAJANAKA WAS CROWNED KING OF MITHILA, HE MADE AN ANNOUNCEMENT—



THE DECLARATION
WAS RECEIVED
WITH GREAT JOY.



LATER —

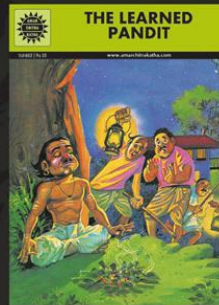
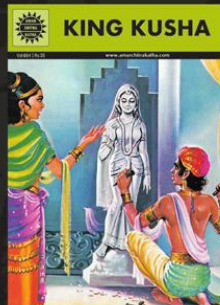
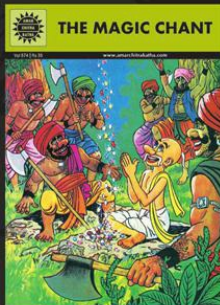


THE HIDDEN TREASURE

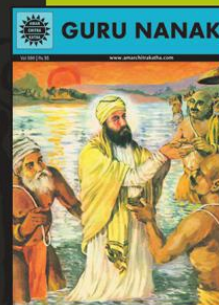
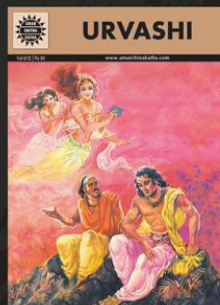
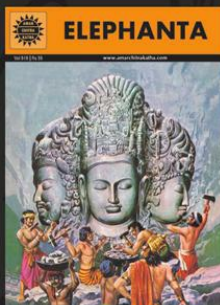
Mahajanaka was all set to wage a bloody war. Fate, however, had other plans. It turned his battlefield into a magnificent palace, where he was required to woo and win a beautiful princess. Wit was to be his most valuable weapon. Strong, handsome and yet wise, such a battle was easy for the young man. But for the many others who coveted his throne, it was an insurmountable hurdle.

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- NARAYAN MURTHY, CHIEF MENTOR, INFOSYS

ISBN 81-8482-166-2



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